

Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

2026 General Competition Requirements

Introduction

1. The Colorado State Fair Authority (“Authority”) reserves to itself the final and absolute right to interpret these competition requirements, to fairly and impartially settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to any competition or event on the fairgrounds; and the right to amend or add to these competition requirements as its judgments may determine. The Authority reserves the right to cancel events or change scheduling if necessary. See each division for any specific or special competition requirements.
2. The following terms, conditions, and requirements are general in nature. They apply to all divisions and all competitions at the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition (“the State Fair”).
3. Management refers to the Colorado State Fair Authority (the Authority) and its designated agents, including the General Manager, Section Managers, Department Directors, Show Superintendents, and Lead Clerks. Management is vested with the discretionary power to interpret rules, enforce safety and grooming standards, allocate physical resources, and adjudicate disputes to ensure the integrity and orderly operation of the Fair.
4. Additional and specific competition requirements are set forth within each individual Division’s competition requirements sections.
5. Every exhibitor entering any competition at the State Fair must comply with the requirements set forth below and any additional or specific requirements set forth for each competition, unless specifically noted otherwise.
6. Submission of an entry to the State Fair expressly binds the exhibitor to all terms and conditions contained in any and all parts of the Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Handbook and

the Colorado State Fair Authority Rules as adopted at 8 CCR 1208-1 (“Authority Rule” or “Authority Rules”).

7. Submission of an entry to the State Fair further expressly binds the exhibitor to the expectations of conduct and the penalties associated with failure to so comply, established in the Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Code of Conduct (“Code of Conduct”), which each exhibitor must sign. The Code of Conduct articulates an exhibitor’s express agreement to conduct himself or herself in compliance at all times with the expectations of the Authority as outlined in the Code of Conduct and express agreement that the exhibitor understands that any action that contradicts the agreements promised in the Code of Conduct may result in the exhibitor’s removal from the Authority’s grounds.

Requirements:

1. Competition is open to the world except where otherwise specified.
2. The Authority is not responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to property while on its grounds.
3. An exhibitor’s signature on a competition entry form constitutes the exhibitor’s acknowledgment that the exhibitor agrees to abide by all competition requirements.
4. An exhibitor’s entry into the competition constitutes the exhibitor’s indemnification of the Authority, the State of Colorado, the Colorado State Fair Board of Authority (“Board”), and the Colorado Department of Agriculture from any and all legal proceedings in regard to a challenge to any competition requirement or Authority Rule.
5. An exhibitor acknowledges and agrees that entry into any competition organized and sponsored by the Authority does not guarantee competition. The Authority reserves the right to deny access onto the grounds to any person who exhibits symptoms of potentially communicable illness or who refuses to comply with federal, state, or local public health requirements and guidelines. The exhibitor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Authority, the state of Colorado, the Board, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture for any damages that may arise as a result of any such denial of entry or request to vacate the grounds.

6. The exhibitor acknowledges and agrees that entry into any competition organized and sponsored by the Authority is at the exhibitor's risk. In the event of any class or division cancellation, program cancellation, or State Fair cancellation, the exhibitor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Authority, the State of Colorado, the Board, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture in any action that may accrue.

Entries and Entry Forms

1. All entries must be made on regulation forms or the designated online entry system, be properly filled out, and be accompanied by all fees whenever required.
2. Entry forms and instructions for making entries are available upon request or may be found [online](#).
3. No entry will be entitled to a place on the grounds without fully completing the entry process.
4. The Authority assumes no responsibility for entry forms or online entry system errors.
5. Every exhibitor expressly understands and agrees that an exhibitor's completed entry form is the exhibitor's acceptance of all competition requirements, whether set forth in a general or a specific requirement. The exhibitor further agrees and understands that the exhibitor will abide by the competition requirements throughout the duration of the exhibitor's time at the State Fair. Additionally, the exhibitor agrees and understands that failure to comply with the competition requirements or any Authority Rule may subject the exhibitor to penalties as determined by the Authority.
6. Entry Fees are non-refundable.

Exhibitor Admission

1. Every exhibitor attending the State Fair must purchase either an All Age Wristband Exhibitor Wristband, a Youth Exhibitor Wristband, or a Daily Gate Admission. Wristbands can be pre-ordered through the appropriate department during the entry process.
 - a. All-Age Wristbands: \$45 each (good for the 11 days of the State Fair); wristbands are available to anyone of any age.

- b. Youth Exhibitor Wristband: All Youth Exhibitors entered in a 4-H or FFA show will be able to purchase a discounted Youth Exhibitor Wristband for \$15. 4-H and FFA family members who are not entered or competing at the State Fair will not be able to purchase this discounted wristband.
 - c. Daily General Admission Tickets: Exhibitors, animal owners, or spectators can choose to purchase daily general admission by going to Gates 3, 5, or 9. Prices vary throughout the 11 days; please see daily discounts and admission rates on the Authority's website. Daily admission can be purchased online at www.coloradostatefair.com.
2. The Authority reserves the right to limit entries to the facilities available and to cancel any competition or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition. The Authority further reserves the right to return entries and any associated fees if any competition, division, or class is canceled.
 3. The Authority may disqualify and remove any entry that has been entered in violation of these general competition requirements or of any specific competition requirements.
 4. Entries may not be removed before the time listed within each division's competition requirements. No entry may be released without a properly executed release form. Release forms may be obtained from the appropriate Program Manager.
 5. The Authority does not discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, age, or other non-merit factors.

Disputes

The Authority reserves the final and absolute right to interpret all of the Authority's competition requirements and Authority Rules and to settle interpretation questions.

Determination of Violations

1. The General Manager of the Authority (“General Manager”), the Director of Agriculture and Competitive Exhibits (“Director”), or the Program Manager of the division in which a violation of any competition term, requirement, or Authority Rule is reported to have occurred before, during, or after judging shall make an initial determination as to whether a violation occurred. At no time will any exhibition, judging event, or other ongoing event be delayed, stopped, or interrupted due to any allegation of wrongdoing reported to the Authority or under investigation by the Authority.
2. In consultation with the Director and General Manager, the Program Manager shall, upon determining a violation has occurred, make a determination as to any appropriate penalty (or penalties) to impose upon the violating person(s). The penalties available include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The exhibitor in question may be disqualified and forfeit all entry and other fees and all premiums, trophies, and awards from the division.
 - b. Any or all premiums, trophies, and awards won by the exhibitor in any and all divisions may be withdrawn and required to be returned to the Authority. All entry and other fees will be forfeited.
 - c. The exhibitor may be barred from competition at the State Fair for a determined period, including a lifetime suspension, upon the concurrence of the General Manager, the Director, and the Program Manager.
 - d. The entry in question will not be sold at any sales at the State Fair.
 - e. For any livestock already sold at the State Fair, the Program Manager, in consultation with the Director and General Manager, may determine to permit the exhibitor to receive the sale proceeds minus any amount that the Program Manager, in consultation with the Director and General Manager, determines representative of any costs attributable to the exhibitor. If the Program Manager, in consultation with the Director and General Manager, determines that no sale proceeds will be paid to the exhibitor, an Authority representative will make contact with the buyer to offer the buyer the following options:
 - 1) receive a full refund of the amount paid; 2) donate the amount paid to the Colorado

State Fair Foundation; or 3) allow the Authority to retain the amount paid as a deposit for successive years' State Fair sales.

- f. The Program Manager, Director, or the General Manager may impose any other appropriate penalty.

Rights of Appeal and Process of Appeal:

The following processes and rights of appeal must be followed for actions pertaining to competitions at the State Fair:

- A. Within 15 days of the point when the Program Manager, Director, or General Manager determines that a violation has occurred, the General Manager will notify the exhibitor in writing of the violation and the facts that support the violation. Such notification must be mailed to the exhibitor's address as recorded on the exhibitor's entry form (or hand-delivered if during the State Fair).
- B. Such notification must also include a description of any penalty the Program Manager, Director, or General Manager may assess against the exhibitor.
- C. Within 15 days of receipt of written notification, the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Board. The written appeal must be delivered to the office of the General Manager within 15 days.
- D. Any written appeal must include any facts relevant to support the appeal.
- E. Within 15 days of receipt of the written appeal, the Program Manager, Director, or the General Manager may rescind the initial determination. The Program Manager, Director, or General Manager may subsequently make no further determination as to the reported violation. The exhibitor will have no further remedy available upon rescission of the initial determination.
- F. Should the Program Manager, Director, or General Manager take no action on the appeal within 15 days from the date of receipt in the office of the General Manager, the appeal must be presented at the next regularly scheduled board meeting for the sole purpose of setting a date for a hearing on the appeal. The exhibitor will be notified in writing after the board meeting of the date of the appeal.
- G. The Board will appoint a hearing panel that will be comprised of the following:

- a. A member of the Board who shall serve as the presiding officer;
 - b. An individual with expertise in the particular competition;
 - c. A person from the public;
 - d. An Authority senior employee other than the General Manager.
- H. Within 15 days of the conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer shall submit to the Board and the exhibitor the hearing panel's findings and recommend final determination as to the alleged violation(s) and penalties, along with a copy of the exhibitor's appeal.
- I. Upon receiving the presiding officer's recommendation at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, the Board will take action and adopt a final determination. The exhibitor will receive a copy of the Board's adopted findings and final determination.

Grievances/Protests

1. Whenever any person believes that an exhibitor has engaged in any activity that violates any competition requirements of the Authority or engaged in any unethical activity during the course of a competition, such person may provide such allegations of wrongdoing to the Program Manager or the Program Manager's designee for review. Any person making such a report must do so on a form that may be obtained at the office of the General Manager, the Program Manager, or the Program Manager's designee, and as set forth in the remainder of this section, "Grievances/Protests."
2. Any grievance must be personally presented to the Program Manager, Director, or the General Manager on a form that may be obtained at the office of the General Manager or the Program Manager's Office.
3. Any grievance so submitted must be accompanied by a \$300 bond. This bond may be returned if the General Manager, Director, or the Program Manager, whoever reviews the grievance, determines that the facts described constitute a violation.
4. Any grievance must be presented within 24 hours of the occurrence of the alleged infraction for all livestock activities and prior to the official closing of the State Fair for all other activities. In the event a grievance is presented after judging has begun on the item or activity in question,

the judging will proceed, and the grievance will be handled as if the grievance had been presented following the judging.

5. Any grievance must be presented in writing and sworn to. The grievance must state the name and contact information of the grieving party, the name of the exhibitor who has allegedly committed a violation, the entry and class in question, the specific allegations giving rise to the grievance, the facts that support the allegations, and the specific terms and conditions from the competition requirements or elsewhere that govern the alleged misconduct.
6. Within 15 days of receipt of any grievance, the Director or the Director's designee shall notify in writing the person(s) submitting the grievance as to the determination of the validity of the grievance and any actions taken as a result of upholding the grievance. If the grievance is denied, the notification must state the reason or reasons for the denial.
7. After an initial determination that the grievance is a valid grievance, the Program Manager and Director will appoint a committee of three disinterested, qualified persons to review the protest and render a decision, which shall be considered final for purposes of appeal under these requirements.
8. The person(s) submitting the grievance will have the right to appeal in a manner consistent with the due process provisions set forth in the Rights of Appeal and Process of Appeal Section of the Colorado State Fair General Competition Requirements.

Exhibitors

Exhibitor Liability

Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury, or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him or her. Exhibitor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, the Authority, the State of Colorado, the Board, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture from all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, or liability costs, suits, or actions of every name, kind, and description, brought forth from or on account of, injuries or

death of any person including but not limited to workers, and the public, or damage to property resulting from the performance of the exhibitor or exhibitor's entries.

Barred Exhibitors

The Authority and the Board, in cooperation with the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association and the NALS&RMA Rules & Infraction Database, reserve the right to refuse entry of any exhibitor who has been barred from any other show based on unethical practices, disqualified from competition at any major livestock show, from any state fair or county fair, or has had premiums withheld or withdrawn on the grounds of a violation of any competition requirement.

Entry Errors

The Authority accepts entries as presented and does not check those entries for errors. Exhibitors are responsible for any errors in any entry form.

Mail and Packages

Parties wishing to have mail sent to them at the fairgrounds may have it addressed to the Colorado State Fair Authority in the care of the intended recipient: 1001 Beulah Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004. Parties may retrieve their mail on-grounds at the Butler Supply Building, located on the south wall between Gates 1 and 2.

Returned Checks

1. Any exhibitor issuing a check for payment that is returned as insufficient funds or for any other reason for not clearing the check-writer's account will be charged a \$35 service charge.
2. The exhibitor will have 5 working days to make payment, by cash or money order, in the amount of the check plus the service charge.
3. No exhibitor will be permitted to show until the insufficient check has been paid.
4. If any check is returned after an exhibitor has shown, all premiums will be held until the check amount is paid, including the \$35 service charge by cash or money order.

5. Those who do not reinstate their check within 60 days will be turned over to a state-authorized collections agency.

IRS and Colorado Department of Revenue Compliance

To comply with the Colorado Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service tax-reporting requirements, a properly completed current IRS Form W-9 must be submitted for any premium earnings of \$600 or more or any monies derived from a sale. No monies won or earned at the State Fair will be paid if the IRS Form W-9 is incorrect.

Premium Checks/Refunds

1. Premium checks and sale checks will be issued only to the individual exhibitor whose name and Social Security Number have been accepted through the State of Colorado, as it appears on the completed IRS form W-9.
2. Checks will not be issued to an exhibitor's relative, company, or fitter.
3. In case of a lost check, please notify the appropriate Program Manager immediately.
4. All premium checks for the current year must be cashed within six months of the date of the check's issue. Exhibitors have until December 31 of the year they competed at the State Fair to claim checks returned to the Authority. Any checks not cashed will be void.
5. No replacement checks will be issued after December 31 of the current year.

Special Awards

Any special awards that any business or individual contributes to any competition must be collected directly from the business or individual. The Authority is not responsible for the redemption of these awards.

Premium Awards

Awards and ribbons have no cash value. Premiums will be paid only from the records of the judges' sheets. Premium checks will be issued as soon as auditing, drug testing, if applicable, and processing can be completed. Sponsored awards may be added or changed.

Bedding

Exhibitors must be familiar with and comply with the specific competition requirements concerning bedding within each individual program's competition requirements.

Camping

On-ground camping is limited to pre-paid reserved spots only. Camping or overnight stays are not allowed in the Authority's parking lots or barn areas.

Restrictions and Limitations

Participation Restrictions

Board members, full-time staff, and the immediate family members of Board members and full-time staff are prohibited from exhibiting or competing in any category or event in which they are directly or indirectly involved in the judging process. Additionally, Board members, staff, and volunteers must disclose any potential conflicts of interest and may need to recuse themselves from activities where a conflict may exist to the respective Program Manager.

Prohibition of Authority Volunteers to be Judges

No volunteer within a State Fair division may act as a judge in any competition within such division.

Prohibition of Interference with Competitions

Direct criticism or interference with a judge, Authority staff (to include temporary and part-time employees or contractors), other exhibitors, association representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, Authority staff or agents, and other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. No person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

If any exhibitor, in any way, whether in person or by agent or representative, interferes with any judge during that judge's adjudication or behaves disrespectfully toward any judge or any Authority staff, the Program Manager, Director, or General Manager may immediately remove said exhibitor from the judging area, may disqualify the exhibitor from further competition, may remove the exhibitor from the fairgrounds, may withhold any prizes that may have been awarded in any other event at the State Fair, and may recommend a possible suspension from exhibiting at any subsequent State Fair for a period of up to three (3) years.

Dogs

No dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds other than those on a leash for direct competition or service animals, as set forth in section 6.2 of the Authority Rules, 8 CCR 1208-1.

Motorized Utility Vehicles

Use of any motorized vehicle, including but not limited to golf carts, motorcycles, mopeds, hoverboards, and scooters, must be pre-approved by the General Manager, who will base his or her determination on the applicant's demonstration of hardship without the ability to use such motorized vehicle prior to coming to the State Fair.

Non-Motorized Vehicles

Use of any non-motorized vehicle, including, but not limited to, bicycles, skateboards, or scooters, is not allowed at any time.

Food and Advertising

Concessions and Advertising Privileges

All exhibits, concessions, or commercial privileges must be approved by the Authority. Under no circumstances will any advertising matter be allowed to be placed upon buildings, trees, or other places on the grounds or otherwise distributed without the General Manager's permission.

Food and Livestock Handling

Due to the potential exposure to pathogens when handling livestock, including those related to zoonotic animal diseases, we advise all participants to refrain from eating in the livestock barns and to thoroughly wash his or her hands after being in areas where livestock are located, including the livestock barns, petting zoos, show rings, and other facilities where livestock are located, and after handling livestock

Distribution of Food on the Fairgrounds

Food distribution or sale on the fairgrounds is restricted to persons and vendors with a fully executed vendor agreement with the Authority. The Authority reserves the right to confiscate any food items prepared for distribution or sale, including materials and accessories used to prepare such foods, and to impose discipline on any exhibitor so engaged, as outlined in the Determination of Violations Section, General Colorado State Fair Competition Requirements.

Official Address and Phone Number:

Colorado State Fair Authority, 1001 Beulah Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

719-561-8484 or 1-800-876-4567

- General Entry – Ext. 2080
- Horse Show – Ext. 2024 or 2025
- Livestock – Ext. 2027

- State Fair Ticket Information - Ext. 2070