


# LOCAL RULES

1. Monterey County Fair will be open to the public from September 3-7, 2026.
2. Please carefully read all the rules and regulations that pertain to your entry department.
3.  The Monterey County Fair reserves to its management the final and absolute right to interpret all rules and regulations in this exhibitor handbook, and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard there to or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair. The Management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules as they, in their judgment, may deem advisable, at any time.
4. Due to the limited space in the livestock area, there will be no bogus entries to subsequently use the space for storage, picnics, rest areas, etc. Storage in areas will be designated, but is limited. This rule will be strictly enforced by the Fair Management. After weigh-in, the Fair Management has the authority to change stall space as necessary. Your cooperation is expected.
5. State Rules, Health Rules and Score Cards for judging as prescribed by the Division of Fairs and Expositions apply to all entries of this Fair. A copy of the State Rules may be obtained at the local Fair Office, on our website or from the Division of Fairs and Expositions website. Questions can be answered by contacting MCF Administration Office at 2004 Fairground Road, Monterey, CA 93940, or call 831/372-5863. Submit entry forms as early as possible to ensure space for your exhibit. Official entry forms are available online: [www.montereycountyfair.com](http://www.montereycountyfair.com). Office hours are 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. No refunds will be given to exhibitors or organizations.
6. **PAYMENT OF FEES:** Online Entry Fees shall be paid by credit card only. Paper Entry Forms (still/non-livestock only) fees may be paid with cash or personal or business check. Monterey County Fair policy for bounced checks: \$25.00 service fee per check plus all bank fees will be added to the amount of the bounced check. Entries will not be accepted until ALL fees are paid. MCF reserves the right to refuse payment from accounts with bad credit history.
7. **ALL ONLINE ENTRY FORMS** must contain correct names, mailing address (with proper zip code), telephone number, and, for Junior entries, the age of the exhibitor. Paper Entry Forms (still/non-livestock only) must be postmarked on or before midnight for designated dates and times.
8. All drapes, hangings, curtains, drops and all other decorative materials that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazards shall be made from non-flammable material or shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition by means of a flame-retardant solution or process approved by the State Fire Marshal, as set forth in Sub Chapter 8, Chapter 1, Title 19, CAC. Exit doors, exit lights, fire alarm sending stations, wet standpipe hose cabinets, and fire extinguishers shall not be concealed or obstructed by any decorative material.
9. Exhibitors of animals, machinery in motion, and other exhibits that might cause accidents, injury, or damage to people coming in contact with them shall guard their exhibits and protect the public. Every such exhibitor shall indemnify the 7th District Agriculture Association from and against all claims and demands, costs, charges, and expenses which it may incur, suffer, or be put to, by reason of any accident or of any person being injured or suffering damages.
10. As a consideration of their exhibits or participation in events on Monterey County Fairgrounds the exhibitor holds harmless the U.S. Government or other parties from which the Fair leases ground from any and all claims or demands of any kind or nature which may be incurred directly by reason of such exhibits or participation including any and all claims or demands of their agents, servants and employees, or spectators of such exhibits or events.
11. Neither the Fair Management nor Departments will they be responsible for unclaimed articles. All precautions will be taken during the Fair to protect the entries, but no liability for loss or damage from any cause can be assumed by the Department or the Fair Management. If entries are not picked up/claimed prior to one month after the last day of fair, these exhibits will be donated are discarded.
12. No signs may be placed on or at any exhibit, nor shall any advertising be posted at exhibits or animal pens without permission of Fair Management.
13. Local divisions are open only to legal residents or producers from Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties unless otherwise indicated.
14. Extended divisions include entries from California and the eleven Western States.
15. Judge(s) shall award placing according to merit; and/or without merit, judge(s) shall make no award under any circumstances. This rule applies whether there are one or more entries in the class. See State Rule II Judging (1-7).
16. Entries cannot be entered in "Any Other" classification if there is a Division and Class for the specific item.
17. Exhibits must be adequately and correctly labeled unless otherwise instructed by the rules of the Department, Division, or Class.
18. Items which have been shown/displayed at a previous Monterey County Fair are not eligible for competition.

**19. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, NO EXHIBIT SHALL BE RELEASED UNTIL THE TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED IN EACH SECTION OF THE ENTRY GUIDEBOOK.** All entries are to be picked up at the building or area where it was displayed, and the owner must present the claim check to the Building Clerk. No exception to this rule will be allowed without written permission from the Management of Monterey County Fair prior to the starting Fair date. Any exhibitor who removes his/her exhibit before the release date will have his/her premium monies withheld by Management.

**20. PROTESTS:** Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of the State or Local Rules that have not been enforced. Decisions of judges, veterinarians, weighmasters, Livestock Superintendents, breed callers, tail dock officials and timers cannot be protested and are final. All Protests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500.00 (cash only) NOTE: The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld.

Given the short duration of the fair:

- 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.
- The fair will make every effort to resolve protests as quickly as possible. All exhibitors by entering an exhibit and all people by filing a protest agree to cooperate with Fair Management to resolve protests in a timely manner.
- Protests shall be adjudicated by Fair Management and/or members of Board of Directors.

Any exhibit involved in a filed protest before or during judging is eligible to compete until the protest is resolved.

Classes that involve a protested exhibit will not become official until the protest is resolved.

- 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.
- In the case of protest, the unofficial judging results may be used to prepare the sale list and other necessary information.

At the discretion of the CEO, judging can be delayed allowing time for the Fair to resolve the protest if to do so does not unreasonably delay or disrupt the operations of the Fair judging and auction events.

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 fair management or their designee, whose decision shall be final.

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No protest will be accepted unless it:

- Is filed or received, in writing, with a signed original and a signed duplicate copy.
- Clearly states which rule has been violated.
- States when the protestor first became aware of the facts and rule violation.

- States the facts relied upon for the basis of the protest.
- 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 fair management
- Includes the names of supporting witnesses, with accessible phone numbers, and contact information and
- Describes or attaches any document relating to the protest, which must include the written decision issued by the local arbitrating body.

**21. AWARDS:** Ribbons and premium checks will be available at the time of release of the exhibit or will be mailed to the exhibitor according to the address printed on the online entry. \$50.00 will be charged for all replacement checks. All checks must be cashed in within 90 days. NO checks will be issued after 90 days. Livestock premium checks will be presented to exhibitors on the date assigned by Fair annually. Premium Awards and Auction payments will be paid only as recorded on the signed judging sheet and/or Junior Livestock Auction sales records and only to the exhibitor. Checks may be picked up on the designated day as listed in the Entry Guidebook by the exhibitor only. If an exhibitor is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian may be designated to pick up check payment. Verification of parent or guardian will be requested at pick up.

**22. Sweepstakes and Divisions Scoring will be as follows:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place = 5 points,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = 3 points,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = 1 point.

**23. Sweepstakes shall be awarded only when at least three (3) separate exhibitors have achieved at least a combined point total of 30 points. To receive sweepstakes awards, an exhibitor must have a minimum of 10 points. (Please see Section VI-Awards and Scoring located under State Rules.)**

**24. Upon signature and submittal of entry form, exhibitors and their agents, parents and leaders acknowledge that:**

- a. They understand the State Rules and local fair rules.
- b. They agree to abide by these rules.
- c. They certify that all information on the form is true & accurate.
- d. They agree to comply with the fair's decision regarding any violation of the state or local rules.
- e. If it is determined there has been unethical treatment of animals or violation of state or federal regulations or of state or local fair drug policy rules, exhibitor's names will be forwarded to F & E as well as given to the Network of California fairs and to appropriate government agencies.

**25. All state rules are applicable for all competitions.**