

# LOCAL POLICIES & EXHIBITOR PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE

## SONOMA COUNTY FAIR PROTEST POLICY:

Prior to filing a protest, secure a copy of the current State Rules for California Fairs, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Divisions of Fairs and Expositions from the Entry Office of the SONOMA COUNTY FAIR. State Rule V, outlines the procedure that must be followed in filing a protest. This booklet may also be obtained from Division of Fairs and Expositions, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or telephone (916) 900-5026.

1. The Competitive Exhibits, Agriculture & Educational Committee of the Sonoma County Fair & Exhibition will represent the Board in competitive exhibit protest matters. When the protest situation is not time sensitive, staff will call a committee meeting based on public meeting requirements per the Brown Act.
2. It is understood that protests are often time sensitive and action needs to be taken immediately. In anticipation of the potential for immediate resolution; no later than the annual August board meeting, the Fair Board President will appoint an ad-hoc Competitive Exhibits Protest Committee that will be given the authority to make timely decisions related to competitive exhibits on behalf of the Fair Board. It has been determined that:
  - a) Members of the ad-hoc committee will consist of the Chair and two members of the Competitive Exhibits, Agriculture and Educational Committee of the Fair Board;
  - b) the Fair Manager and Exhibits Coordinator will be ex-officio members of this ad-hoc committee;
  - c) their official term will be from the date they are appointed until the next regular Fair board meeting;
  - d) this committee will make all decisions related to official protests that are of immediate nature and cannot be heard at a regular committee or board meeting;
  - e) if requested by fair management, will also be tasked with actions related to non-official protests and alleged rule violations, including drug policy violations;
  - f) any action taken by this ad-hoc committee will be reported at the next regular meeting of the Competitive Exhibits, Agriculture and Educational Committee and the Fair Board
3. Decisions by committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors at the next regular meeting. Final appeal lies with the Division of Fairs and Expositions. If no appeal takes place, the the actions taken by the committee are final.
4. The Sonoma County Fair and Exhibition will notify Fairs and Expositions of their action on the matter in writing following their decision.
5. The person filing the protest and exhibitors named in the protest will be notified in writing as to whether the protest is approved or denied.
6. Exhibitors named in a protest can request a copy of the official protest filed against them, and the name of the individual(s) who filed the protest.

## EXHIBITOR'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY:

When action on a rule violation has been taken by fair management or the ad hoc Competitive Exhibits Action Committee, the identity of the exhibitor (including minors) will not be disclosed publicly. However if the matter is appealed to the Board level by an official protest or appeal of protest, then exhibitors involved (including minors) may have their name disclosed, as documentation of official proceedings automatically become public record.

## EXHIBITOR PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE:

By typing YES during the online entry process, exhibitors agree to the following release:

I hereby authorize the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, the County of Sonoma and all its departments, agencies, commissions and special districts and their employees ("the County of Sonoma"), to publish the photographs and/or videos taken of any exhibitor or minor exhibitor, on whose behalf I am signing, and to use said minor(s)' names in the County's printed publications, websites, social media channels and other similar media.

I acknowledge that since my participation [or my child(s)' participation] in publications and websites produced by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and the County of Sonoma is voluntary, I hereby agree not to make any claim for compensation for the use of my [or my child(s)] image and/or voice and/or words. I further agree that my participation [or my child(s)' participation] in any publication and website produced by the County of Sonoma confers upon me no rights of ownership whatsoever.

On behalf of myself and my child/children, I agree to release and hold harmless the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and the County of Sonoma, its contractors and its employees from liability for any claims by me or on behalf of my child/children or any third party, arising out of or in connection with the foregoing, and waive any right to inspect or approve the same.

I have read this minor Child Photo Release Form and voluntarily accept the terms and conditions set forth herein. I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of the minor child/children named below, and I have the legal authority to execute this release on behalf of the child/children.

# LOCAL RULES

## LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### Single Admissions to the Grounds

13 Years & over – \$15.00

7-12 Years – \$7.00

Free Racing Gates

6 & Under – Free

Senior Days – Friday

Kid's Days – Thursday

**Entry Office** 707-545-4203

**Administration Office** 707-545-4200

**Division of Fairs & Expo.** 916-900-5026

**NOTE TO EXHIBITORS:** All rules contained in “2018 State Rules for California Fairs” as prescribed by the Division of Fairs & Expositions apply to this fair. A copy may be downloaded from the Division of Fairs & Expositions website: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe). Hard copies are not available in the Entry Office.

### EXHIBITORS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER OUR FAIR COMPETITIONS:

- 1) Adult non-livestock entries in this Guidebook limited to **Sonoma County** residents, except where specified.
- 2) Adult Livestock classes limited to United States residents, except where specified.
- 3) All Junior breeding livestock classes in the Guidebook are open to junior breeding livestock project members in the following counties: Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Solano and Humboldt with the following stipulation: Residents of Sonoma and Marin counties will have first priority for exhibit, after that, entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until entries are full (all barn space is filled) for that species. Notification of acceptance will be made after close of entries.
- 4) Junior Market Livestock classes are limited to youth residents of Sonoma and Marin counties, and who are enrolled in elementary or high school during the 2017-2018 school year.
- 5) Junior Exhibitors with a disability may request reasonable accommodations be made by notifying the Entry Office in advance.

### GENERAL RULES:

- 6) Please read all rules and regulations carefully, important changes have been made. Cash awards may be withheld if printed rules are not carefully complied with.
- 7) The Fair will pay cash awards only on those classes specified in the Exhibitor's Guidebook and only the judge's books will be the basis for cash award payments. Due to the possibility of an error in transferring information, ribbons and exhibit tags are not valid proof of award.
- 8) Exhibits containing controlled substances are prohibited (i.e. alcohol, cannabis, tobacco etc.)
- 9) Checks are to be made payable to the Sonoma County Fair. Entry forms and fees are to be mailed to:

**Sonoma County Fair Entry Office**  
**1350 Bennett Valley Road**  
**Santa Rosa, California 95404**

- 10) This Fair does not carry liability insurance covering exhibitors and/or their exhibits. Liability insurance is the responsibility and the discretion of the exhibitor. Therefore, it is suggested that exhibitors consider taking out a liability policy covering themselves and their exhibit.
- 11) Every precaution will be taken to insure the safety of all exhibits, but the management assumes no responsibility for loss, theft or damage which may occur, from any cause, and upon this condition only, are entries accepted.

# LOCAL RULES

## AGE & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

### 12) Adult (Open) Department

- a) The (Open) Adult Department is open to exhibitors of any age. See specific departments for resident requirements.

### Youth (Junior) Department

- a) **FFA:** members may participate as members until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school. (*Exception: Market Animals*).
- b) **4-H:** The level of membership are aged based:
  - i) **PRIMARY 4-H MEMBERS:** Must be 5 years old by December 31, 2017. **PRIMARY 4-H MEMBERS** are not eligible to show large livestock at this fair; Primary members are allowed to show breeding rabbits, cavy and poultry. Primary Members may not exhibit market animals.
  - ii) **JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR 4-H MEMBERS:** Must be 9 years old on or before December 31, 2017. Senior 4-H members may exhibit until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19 (*Exception: Market Animals*).
  - iii) Non-livestock departments (*except where specified*) are open to 4-H youth 5 years through 19 years old.
  - iv) Market classes will be limited to Sonoma and Marin youth, 9 years and up, who were enrolled in elementary or high school during the 2017-2018 school year.
- c) **GRANGE:** members may be eligible to exhibit as members if they are at least 5 years of age as of January 1, 2018, until the end of the calendar year in which member reaches age 19. (*Exception: Market Animals*). Grange members will show in age appropriate 4-H class.
- d) **INDEPENDENT YOUTH (JUNIOR):** exhibitors may enter any youth class, under the following conditions:
  - i) For all non-livestock departments (*except where specified*), exhibitor must be at least 5 years of age as of December 31, 2017.
  - ii) For breeding rabbit, cavy and poultry projects exhibitor must be 5 years old as of December 31, 2017.
  - iii) For all large livestock departments, exhibitor must be at least 9 years of age as of December 31, 2017.
  - iv) Independent Youth may exhibit until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19 (*Exception: Market Animals*).
  - v) Independent Youth must provide proof of age.
  - vi) Independent Youth will show all livestock in the age appropriate 4-H class.
- e) **SPECIAL JUNIOR:** The Sonoma County Fair Special Junior Program was discontinued in 2018. Children under 9 are eligible to show small animal breeding projects or in the Open Division.

- 13) **MARKET:** Market classes are limited to Sonoma and Marin 4-H, FFA & Independent Youth who are enrolled in elementary, middle, or high school during the 2017/2018 school year.

# LOCAL RULES

## ENTRIES:

### 14) **Entry Deadlines and Fees:**

- a) **Entries will be accepted starting May 1, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.**
- c) **Entries close June 30, at 11:59 p.m.**
- d) Entry fees must be paid online at time of entry.
- e) Late entries will be accepted after established entry deadlines. Late entries will only be accepted by contacting the office in writing and providing payment of an additional late fee penalty as follows:
  - i) \$100.00 late entry penalty fee per entry for Livestock Department entries will be accepted only until 5:00 p.m. on July 14, 2018. (Includes all large livestock, horses, rabbits, covies, poultry and market animals.)

15) **TAX PAYER IDENTIFICATION** The Fair is required to report premium earnings larger than \$600 to the IRS. Therefore, the fair may request exhibitors provide his/her correct taxpayer identification number (TIN). Furthermore, the IRS notifies the Fair each year of incorrect TINs reported in the prior year. Exhibitors reported to the Fair by the IRS to have incorrect TINs will be subject to backup withholding immediately until the correct TINs are provided.

16) **REFUNDS** of any kind will be granted only upon approval of the Board of Directors. Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the Fair. Refunds will be made only because of sickness, accident, or death, cancellation of a class, or lack of exhibit space. No refunds will be considered under the amount of \$5.00, and there will be a \$20.00 service charge.

17) **ENTRIES** must be made through the online entry system. Entries must remain on exhibit for the full duration of the fair as specified per department. *(Any exceptions must be approved by management.)*

18) A complete exhibit eligible in more than one division and/or class will be entered and judged only in the division and/or class for which it best qualifies. Any exhibit not properly entered may be transferred to its proper class by fair management, whose decision may be changed only by the judge.

19) Fair management may, at their discretion, transfer entries to their proper classes, if the entry has been made in error. However, the Fair will not be liable for entries made in error and will not reopen judging to accommodate such entries.

20) **NON-LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS** must have been made, collected, grown, or prepared solely by the exhibitor and completed within one year of the opening date of the fair, unless specified in division rules. Items must be clean and pressed. Soiled articles will not be accepted.

21) **NON-LIVESTOCK JUDGING** is conducted prior to the Fair's opening and is not open to spectators.

22) **CONDUCT** Management reserves the right to cancel entries and cash awards and request the removal of exhibits from the grounds where exhibitors are disorderly, immoral, unethical and/or endangering or disturbing the public, staff and/or other exhibitors.

## LOCAL RULES

- 23) **ALCOHOL** No outside alcohol is permitted on the grounds.
- 24) **ONLINE AUTHORIZATION** must be completed electronically for youth representing an organization before youth livestock entries will be complete. Leaders/Advisors will receive via e-mail a list of entries to authorize after entries close. Authorization must be complete by July 13.
- 25) **CONFIRMATION E-MAIL** should be kept with exhibitor in the event proof of entry is required.
- 26) **JUDGING SYSTEMS** There are 2 forms of judging that take place. Please be sure to check the judging system being applied to the exhibit(s) you are entering.
- American** – To rank exhibits against one another and award one first placing, one second placing, etc. Primarily used in animal judging, and in the Adult non-livestock departments.
- Danish** – To compare each exhibit on its own merit against the scorecard or recognized standard and award as many first placings, etc. as merited. Primarily used in Junior non-livestock departments.

### CASH AWARDS:

- 27) All premium checks will be issued as soon as they are prepared.
- ALL CHECKS must be cashed within 6 months after close of the Fair.**
  - Checks will be issued payable under the name filled out as the "contact" in the online entry process. If contact is not listed, check is written to the exhibitor.
  - Fair will re-issue checks for a \$20 service charge.
  - Premium ribbons, tags, or cards have no value as to payment. Only the official placing on the judging sheet constitutes the final placement.

### EXHIBITORS MEETINGS

- 28) The Sonoma County Fair endeavors to put together a quality county fair. This is not possible without the help and cooperation of our exhibitors. Therefore we appreciate your comments and invite you to have input into what is developed. Check specific departments in guidebook for times.

### SUBSTITUTIONS:

- 29) Substitutions can only be made within a division. Substitutions must be made when the exhibit arrives at the fairgrounds, or for livestock, when registration certificates are checked. In the livestock department a minimum \$20.00 penalty must be paid prior to judging for each substitution made by the exhibitor in excess of 2 in the division.

### LIVESTOCK SHOWING:

- 30) All persons showing in the Adult Department Livestock Classes must wear clean attire and be appropriately dressed.
- 31) All junior exhibitors must wear the uniform of their organization or white if an independent junior. See Junior Livestock Department Show Dress for specific guidelines.

### CODE OF EXCELLENCE:

- 32) All junior exhibitors must authorize following the Code of Excellence through the online entry process.

**Livestock Rules Continued on page 133**

## DEPARTMENT #1 – ADULT FOODS

<b>Entries Close:</b>	Saturday, June 30, 11:59 p.m.
<b>Exhibits Received:</b>	See Division
<b>Entry Drop Off:</b>	Rear entrance of Garrett Building Enter through Gate 4 off Brookwood Ave.
<b>Exhibits Released:</b>	Tuesday, August 14, 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
<b>Entry Fee:</b>	\$2.00 per entry
<b>Entry Limit:</b>	Two entries per exhibitor per class, unless noted
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Open to Sonoma County Residents

### Rules

1. All entries must be home prepared by Exhibitor and must be prepared by scratch, unless otherwise specified.
2. Deliver cakes on cake rounds, that should extend slightly beyond base of cake. Please **DO NOT** use china or glass plates.
3. Pie size-standard 4" to 9". Fair does not provide pie tins. If exhibitor chooses to use non-disposable pie plate, permanent identification must be on bottom of plate.
4. Exhibitor's containers, accessories, ribbons, etc. must be picked up on change over days. Unclaimed non-perishable items will be donated to charity within 2 weeks of fair closing. Perishable items will be disposed of immediately.
5. Exhibitors will be responsible for classifying their own entry. Careful attention should be given to filling out entry form.
6. The same recipe cannot be used in more than one class.
7. **Delivery of Exhibits:** Bring your entries to the front door of Garrett Building. Walk in through the Brookwood Ave. Gate.
8. American system of judging.

### Foods Sweepstakes

Exhibitors in this department are automatically eligible for the sweepstakes award for all entries. No fee is required.

Sweepstakes will be calculated as follows:

First Award – 5 points, Second Award – 3 points, Third Award – 1 point

### Division 101 – Foods Awards

Foods Sweepstakes.....	\$50 + Plaque by Sonoma County Fair
Best of Show Decorated Cake.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Decorated Edible Type House.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Decorated Cookie/Cupcake.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Bars & Cookies.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Candy & Confection.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Bread.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Cakes, Pies and Pastries.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Canned Foods.....	\$50 + Rosette
Ball Fresh Preserving Award .....	<b>Ball &amp; Kerr Fresh Preserving Products</b>
Best of Show Dried Food.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Amateur Apiary.....	\$50 + Rosette
Best of Show Commercial Apiary.....	\$50 + Rosette

BALL® FRESH PRESERVING AWARD FOR ADULT LEVEL Presented by: BALL® & KERR™ FRESH PRESERVING PRODUCTS  
Newell Brands Inc., marketers of Ball® and Kerr™ Fresh Preserving Products, is proud to recognize today's fresh preserving (canning) enthusiasts. Awards for 1st and 2nd place will be presented to individuals whose home canned entry is selected the best in the category. A panel of judges will select the top two entries in Fruits, Vegetables, Pickles, and Soft Spreads. Entries must be preserved in Ball® Jars and sealed with Ball® Lids and Bands specially designed for home canning, or preserved in Kerr™ Jars sealed with Kerr™ Lids and Bands specially designed for home canning. In addition, entries in the soft spread category must be prepared using Ball® Pectin: Classic, Low or No-Sugar, or Liquid. Proof of pectin purchase in the form of a receipt or product UPC must be submitted with entry.