

2026 COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

The following general rules and regulations apply to the Competitive Exhibits Departments. Additional rules specific to the individual departments are found in the respective entry books. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be familiar with these rules and regulations.

2. INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND DISPUTES:

The Nebraska State Fair Management (Ag Director, Executive Director, Chair of the Ag Committee, FFA Superintendent, 4-H Program Leader) reserves to its Board the final and absolute right to interpret, amend or add to the **Competitive Exhibits General Rules & Regulations** as its judgement may determine, and to settle all disputes and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard hereto or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair.

3. COMPLIANCE:

The exhibitor agrees to comply with all rules and regulations governing the Nebraska State Fair upon entering exhibits in the fair. This includes compliance with (1) the current **Competitive Exhibits General Rules & Regulations**, (2) additional rules specific to the individual Competitive Exhibits, and (3) all general rules and restrictions found on the Guest Info of the Nebraska State Fair web site: www.statefair.org. Exhibitors must also agree to cooperate with all Nebraska State Fair officials and personnel in all matters of policy.

Exhibitors serve as an important part of the Fair in celebrating and showcasing Nebraska's excellence. Our primary audience consists of family and youth. The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right and has the sole discretion to reject any exhibit that contains graphic or obscene material or is otherwise objectionable to the Fair's family-oriented target audience. In such cases the exhibit will be disqualified and removed. Failure to comply with removal will subject exhibitor to penalties as Nebraska State Fair may order and/or prescribed by law.

4. LIABILITY:

Management Liability: The Nebraska State Fair management is not responsible for personal injury and assumes no liability for loss or damage by theft or disasters (human or natural) to any property of the exhibitor while on the fairgrounds.

Exhibitor Liability: The exhibitor is solely responsible for any consequential injury or loss resulting from an article exhibited by the exhibitor and must assume responsibility relating to all legal or other proceedings regarding the exhibit or any damage or injury to any other person or property caused by the exhibitor or exhibits at the Fair.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

All entries must be made either by the online website (preferred method) or using an official Nebraska State Fair Entry Form. Entry forms may be obtained from the State Fair website, www.statefair.org, or the State Fair office. Any fee or money due must accompany the submission. No item can be entered unless there is a suitable class in the appropriate department entry book.

Should an entry be made in a name other than that of a bona fide owner or using erroneous information regarding the item, the entry will be disqualified from competition and the exhibitor barred from participation until reinstated.

The opportunity to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair is open to all persons without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or other non-merit factors. Discrimination is prohibited.

6. ENTRY DEADLINE:

Entry deadlines varies within the different Competitive Exhibits Departments. Refer to the individual department entry books for details. **No late entries will be accepted**, including Add-ons & substitution.

7. EXHIBITOR TICKET POLICY

Exhibitor admission tickets are available **exclusively to exhibitors** for **\$5.00 per person, per day (plus fees)**. Tickets must be purchased online at <https://bit.ly/3DdaaKm> using the password **CVENT**.

Each household may purchase **up to five (5) tickets total** for use by household members only — not per exhibitor. Orders exceeding this limit will not be fulfilled. Please note: **no refunds** will be issued for unused or excess tickets.

Exhibitors purchasing exhibitor tickets will receive the tickets either (1) printed from your order, (2) shown on your phone, or (3) from the “will call” booth, located at the main gate, off South Locust street. No exhibitor tickets will be provided if no entry is brought to the fair, **even if paid, there has to be an exhibit**. Address questions to the respective department superintendent.

8. RECEIVING OF EXHIBITS:

Deadlines for receiving exhibits at the Fair vary with the different Competitive Exhibits Departments. Refer to the individual department entry books for details. When shipping exhibits, allow minimum of two weeks' time so package arrives no later than the receiving deadline. And must include a PREPAID RETURN LABEL.

9. JUDGES / JUDGING:

A judge is not permitted to be an exhibitor in a class they are judging.

Any person who interferes with the judging process will be asked to leave the judging area. Further action will be at the discretion of the superintendent.

An exhibit entered in the incorrect class may be transferred to the appropriate class at the discretion of the department superintendent prior to the start of judging. However, if the correct class for the entry has already been judged the class will not be reopened and the exhibit will not be judged.

10. AWARDS:

The judge may, but is not required to, award all the ribbons offered in a class. It is the intention of Fair Management that no premium or distinction of any kind be given to any exhibit deemed unworthy by the judge or to any exhibitor who has conducted her or himself in a manner inconsistent with the goals and values of the Fair. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, theft of Fair property, crude or crass behavior toward Fair personnel, exhibitors or spectators, or other actions amounting to moral turpitude on the part of the exhibitor or otherwise inconsistent with the spirit of fair competition.

Payment of Nebraska State Fair premiums will be made within sixty (60) days after the last day of the Fair. The Nebraska State Fair will not be held liable for any award or premium offered by a private or business donor separate from the Nebraska State Fair should that donor fail to provide the offered award or premium. Any discrepancies in the amounts of premium checks must be called to our attention before November 1.

Nebraska State Fair premium checks are VOID after 90 days of date issuance.

11. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS:

The Nebraska State Fair will handle all protests. Verbal protests will be directed to the proper department superintendent and if necessary, brought to the State Fair Competitive Exhibits Manager. All formal protests must be submitted in writing to the State Fair Competitive Exhibits Manager. All forms must be signed and be accompanied by a monetary fee of \$150.00, cash or certified check. Such written protests must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal and must be filed with the State Fair Competitive Exhibits Manager immediately upon the occasion of the protest. No complaint or appeal based solely upon the statement that a judge is incompetent will be considered. This complaint, along with supporting documents, will be submitted to the Ag

Director and Executive Director. The report of wrongdoing will then be presented to the Nebraska State Fair Agriculture Committee for review. The panel shall review the form, the allegations, and the supporting documents or evidence and report its findings and proposed decision to the Ag Director and the Executive Director. At no time will any exhibition, judging event, or any other ongoing event be delayed, stopped, or interrupted as a result of any allegation of wrongdoing. Any decision rendered by the Ag Director and Executive Director based upon the review and proposed decision of the Agriculture Committee shall be the final decision.

12. RELEASE TIME:

Removal of entries by the exhibitor prior to release time set by the Nebraska State Fair is prohibited. Premiums will be forfeited.

13. RETURNED CHECKS:

There will be a \$40 service charge for any non-sufficient fund check. If the exhibitor does not make payment of the check and service charge within five (5) days of notification from NSF, the exhibitor will not receive any premium for entries. If the payment was for shipping, the exhibit(s) will be held until payment of amount and service charge is received.

14. SOLICITATION

Exhibitors in the Competitive Exhibits Departments are not allowed to solicit Fair Guests.

15. LOTTERIES

No lottery or raffle shall be conducted at the Nebraska State Fair without the written authority of the Executive Director of the Nebraska State Fair.

16. SMOKING / VAPING:

Smoking/vaping is prohibited in all buildings.

17. ALCOHOL ABUSE:

The State of Nebraska Rules on Alcohol Use and Abuse are enforced on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds.

18. FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

By order of the State Fire Marshal, the use of flammable and combustible materials inside any buildings is strictly prohibited.

19. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to cancel events or change scheduling if deemed necessary.