

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION

Entry Rules & Information

1. All exhibitors must abide by the administrative rules of the Illinois State Fair. No employee (includes full-time, part-time, and/or contractual employees) of the Illinois State Fair or member of their Immediate Family is allowed to own or exhibit any animals and/or articles in any competitive event in which they are employed as a judge or superintendent. (Immediate Family is defined as the spouse, children, stepchildren, parents or stepparents, brothers, sisters, step-brothers or step-sisters.)
2. Where discrepancies exist between printed and online versions of this premium book, the online version shall take precedence.
3. Before making entries, read rules very carefully. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. The State Fair management reserves the right to reject any entry. Mail all entries to General Entry Department, Illinois State Fairgrounds, P. O. Box 19427, Springfield, Illinois 62794. Make all entries plain, using blanks furnished by Illinois State Fair, supplying all required information. See individual department sections for entry deadlines. Entries must be postmarked by the entry deadlines.
4. Entries made in different departments should be made on separate entry blanks. Additional blanks may be obtained upon request to the General Entry Department, Illinois State Fair.
5. Class entry fees vary by department. Please see individual department sections for entry fee information. In addition to class entry fees, all exhibitors are required to pay an office fee of \$3.00 for each department entered. No refunds will be provided.
6. Champion classes are limited to first place winners. Do not make entries in these classes.
7. Each exhibitor must list his or her Social Security number in the proper place on the entry blank. Failure to do so delays the entry and can result in loss of premium.
8. The Illinois State Fair takes reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all exhibits, but in no case will the Management assume liability or be responsible in any way for the loss, damage, or injury to the property of any exhibitor while it is on the grounds. Application of entry will be deemed an acceptance of this and all other rules governing this division.
9. Entries mailed to the State Fair can be returned by the Superintendent following the completion of the Show. If an Exhibitor wants an entry returned, the entry must be accompanied with a prepaid shipping label. The Department will not accept Money Orders or Checks in lieu of a prepaid shipping label. Perishable items will be disposed of. Check with each department for details regarding days and times to pick up items.
10. Any items not picked up at the end of the Fair will be taken to the Illinois State Fair offices at the Emmerson Building. Items will be held for pick-up until September 15, 2024.

Awards & Premiums

1. Arrival schedule for placing entries to be judged is given at the beginning of the various sections. Please read these instructions carefully.
2. Awards will be made by the judges in each section. No person will act as judge in any class in which he may be interested as the exhibitor, agent or employee of an exhibitor, or otherwise. If such circumstance should occur, the Superintendent of the department shall remove such judge, and substitute another temporarily if needed. If an official judge without such a conflict is not present, the Superintendent of the department has the authority to appoint a capable judge, provided the appointee has no conflict.

3. At the time of check in, if an exhibit is identified as erroneously entered, the Department Superintendent has the authority to transfer the exhibit to the correct class. If the correct class has already been judged, it shall not be reopened, and the entry will be ineligible for competition. There will be no refund of entry fee for erroneously entered exhibits. "Erroneously entered" shall refer to exhibits that do not meet the technical requirements for the class (e.g. a floriculture class for miniature design, where the entered item is larger than the definition for miniature design in the premium book, may be moved to the small design class, if the entry meets the appropriate definition in the premium book).
4. If it is ascertained any exhibitor has made or caused to be made any false statement in regard to any entry exhibited, or ownership of same, they will be disqualified.
5. Where there is only one exhibitor in a class, the first prize, based on published judging criteria, will be awarded. Where there is competition in a class, all prizes shall be awarded so far as there are premiums offered in the premium book.
6. If it is ascertained any exhibitor or spectator associated with an exhibitor attempted to interfere with the judge in the performance of their duty in any matter, that exhibitor shall be disqualified from all further competition at that year's State Fair and forfeit any premiums and/or ribbons already awarded.
7. In the event of a violation, the exhibitor and their entry shall be disqualified. Illinois State Fair will provide the disqualified exhibitor with a Notice of Disqualification setting for the reason for the disqualification. A disqualified exhibitor shall have 10 days following the receipt of the notice of Disqualification to file a Petition with the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The procedures set forth in 8 Illinois Administrative Code 1, Subpart C, shall govern the process of filing and considering a Petition from a disqualified exhibitor.
8. If another exhibitor or any member of the public has reason to believe that an exhibit should be disqualified, they may contact the superintendent for that department, and/or State Fair Officials and must present their evidence in writing. If, after reviewing evidence, the State Fair disqualifies the exhibit, the complaining party's name and evidence may be included in the Notice of Disqualification. The basis for a disqualification cannot be anonymous.
9. Ribbons and trophies will be displayed with exhibit after judging. The Illinois State Fair will not be responsible for loss or issue duplicates.
10. Results of judging will be available on the Illinois State Fair website at: www.statefair.illinois.gov.
11. All Special Awards will be paid by the Company offering them. The Illinois State Fair will notify the Company of the recipient's name and address, but the Fair has no responsibility for payment of any Special Award.
12. Premiums will be paid as quickly as possible after awards have been made. Judge's Books are used as evidence for payment of premiums. Ribbons and/or tags are not acceptable.
13. Errors in premiums statements will be corrected until November 1st following the Fair, after which time the books are closed. Incorrect or unclaimed premiums will be forfeited.
14. The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in the General Premium Book.