

General Rules and Regulations

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Parking Automobiles

Vehicles should be parked in designated areas inside the fairgrounds, outside the fence behind the exhibit buildings, or across the street on the rodeo parking area. Vehicles are only allowed in the central area between the exhibit buildings on Tuesday during entry times. Gates will be shut for the remainder of the fair.

Trailers (hitched or un-hitched) must not be parked on the main grounds inside the fence. Trailers may be parked in rodeo parking area or on the old airport behind the poultry building.

General Rules/Regulations

Rule 1– Organization

The management of the McCurtain County Free Fair is in the hands of the Directors of McCurtain County Free Fair Association which is composed of nine members elected by the citizens of McCurtain County.

The McCurtain County Free Fair is financed by taxes, donations and income derived from sale of concessions. No admission charges will be made and no entry fees will be charged. (The McCurtain County Free Fair Association is organized under Section 104, O.S. Supp. 1947, and Title 2 Oklahoma Session Laws, 1949, and H.B. No. 491 O.S.L. 1949.)

Rule 2– Interpretation and Violators

The McCurtain County Free Fair Association reserves that its Board of Directors has the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto or otherwise arising out of connected with or incident to the fair.

Any person who violates any rule or regulation will forfeit the privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Board of Directors may order.

All protests must be submitted in writing to the rules and regulations committee.

Rule 3– Dates and Locations

The-McCurtain County Free Fair will be held in Idabel, Oklahoma, at the McCurtain County Free Fair Grounds beginning the first Tuesday after Labor Day and concluding the first Saturday following Labor day; unless postponed or extended by the Fair Board, which has the right to do so for any cause or causes whatsoever which they deem for the good of all concerned.

Rule 4– Entry Requirements

All entries must be filed with the superintendents not later than the date and time specified.

The management reserves the right to reject any entry which they deem to be unworthy of exhibition. Every exhibit must remain intact and displayed until released by the Fair Board, unless otherwise provided; and the failure to comply with this requirement will bar said exhibitor

from partaking of any premiums which they may have been awarded by the judges in any department of the fair.

Entry has to be displayed at all times until released or will be disqualified.

Entries in every department and class must be made between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, and Livestock entries between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., Wednesday The livestock building superintendent and his assistants will assign spaces or stalls. Exhibitors will be required to keep their space or stall in an orderly and sanitary condition at all times during the fair. Failure to do so shall result in nonpayment of premium which may be due.

All exhibits may be released at 8 p.m., Saturday

Rule 5– Liability

All property of every character entered for competition, display or any other purpose, or being anywhere on the fairgrounds shall be subject to the control of the Fair Board or their designated staff.

In no case shall the McCurtain County Free Fair Association, secretary, directors, assistants or employees be held responsible for loss, damage or injury at any time, or diseases of any kind of character, to any property while the same is on the fair grounds at any time or place. All reasonable precautions will be exercised by all of the above named officials to safeguard property and life, but in no event will any of the above named officials in their official capacity or as individuals be liable for any of the above mentioned conditions.

The McCurtain County Free Fair Association expressly refuses and does not assume any liabilities for injury to persons or their officers and employees or any patrons coming upon the grounds of the McCurtain County Free Fair. And no claims for injury to any person or property shall be asserted or suit instituted or maintained against the McCurtain County Free Fair Association, its officers, agents, representatives, servants or employees by any person having license or privilege to exhibit or to attend said Free Fair. And it is a part of the consideration for such license and privilege that any such claim for damages are, by said persons, specifically waived.

If any damage, loss or injury to person or property shall be caused by reason, neglect or willful act of any person, firm or corporation having license or privilege to exhibit on said fair grounds, the McCurtain County Free Fair Association shall in no manner be responsible or liable for any expense or liability.

All concessions shall be at the discretion of the Fair Board.

A committee appointed by the Fair Board shall be in charge of assigning space either in the buildings or on the grounds for commercial display or advertising. Charges will be made for space and will be set by the Fair Board of Directors.

Rule 6– Premiums and Awards

The judges will award premiums only on entries regularly mentioned in the Schedule of Premiums. The decision of the judge or judges shall be final. Protests will be considered or accepted only if based on a rule violation.

The judges in all departments, with the exception of livestock, will be selected and secured by the superintendent of each, and will be allowed to act as judge in the class or ring in which the exhibits.

No premiums will be awarded when, in the opinion of the judges, articles or exhibits are unworthy of an award.

In the event of deficiency of money to defray all expenses aforementioned, all premiums and expenses will be paid in the fullest extent and in the most equitable manner that funds will permit. The fair management will make every effort to prevent any such emergency; however, management will not be held liable for any deficiencies in finances to meet such obligations.

The following colors will be used in designating awards:

These ribbons will be attached only by the superintendent of each department or his assistants.

Champions– Purple Reserve Champions– Lavender

1st Place– Blue, 2nd Place – Red, 3rd Place – White, 4th Place – Pink, 5th Place – Yellow

In paying premiums, no evidence of award will be recognized except the record book, properly signed by the judges or superintendent. Ribbons attached to exhibits are not evidence, as they sometimes become misplaced.

Where special premiums are offered, they will be paid directly by those offering them upon certificate of the secretary of the fair.

Only animals selected by a judge for premium sale will be eligible for announced donations. This rule is an attempt to stop solicited donations for animals that die prior to or during the fair that have not been selected for premium sales.

Rule 7 – Document Entirety

The rules and regulations as prescribed by the Board of Directors for each section and department are hereby incorporated herein and made a party hereby as fully as if the same were set forth above and may be obtained from the secretary or said association. All persons, exhibitors and concessionaires are required to familiarize themselves with all rules as laid down by the association.

Rule 8 – Record Keeping

Entries from the prior 10 years fairs will be kept for reference purposes.

Rule 9 – Timeliness of Performance

All judges will be ranked on lists turned in by Ag teachers, fair board members, 4H leaders and Superintendents. This list will be used as the official judge's lists. List is due by the November fair board meeting. The names most frequent on the list would rank 1st, 2ND, 3rd, 4th, 5th as people to be contacted in this order. In the event that a judge cannot be acquired from the top 5 the selection committee would return to the board for more names. The board reserves the right to strike any name.

Judges cannot be immediate family to superintendent of class or judge a class with exhibitor that is an immediate family member.

Rule 10 – Rule Changes

Anyone at any time may suggest a rule change. Persons proposing a rule change shall contact any fair board member in their voting district with a request to sponsor their proposed change. If the fair board member agrees to sponsor the change. It shall be submitted in writing to the Fair board Secretary. Proposal must be signed by sponsoring member.

All properly submitted rule change proposals will then give to Rules Committee. Rules committee shall examine and or debate proposal. Committee may change language, add to or delete any part of proposal.

Rules committee will decide if proposal is in the best interest of the fair, they will determine if the proposal warrants consideration of the fair board, or needs to be discarded.

IF committee determines that the proposal warrants consideration of the board, it shall be placed on the regular meeting agenda for debate and or vote.

Any rule change voted on within 120 days before fair opening day shall not take effect until after class of said fair.

Board may enact an emergency order to activate rule change with the waiver of the 120 day waiting period the emergency order must be made by unanimous vote of a quorum at a regular scheduled meeting.

Rules Committee will be made up of the following: 1 board member from each district, county extension director, and one at large member appointed by the chairman of the board

Junior Classification

1. Exhibitors in this department must be presently enrolled in a McCurtain County school or be a previous semester graduate of a McCurtain County high school or certified home-schooled in McCurtain County.
2. Exhibitors must comply with the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association eligibility guidelines.
3. All entries and awards in the department shall be subject to the general Rules and Regulations published in this premium list.
4. Juniors will be eligible to enter both Junior and Open division.

Check-in/Check-out Procedures

1. Exhibitors shall use entry tags provided by the class superintendent.

Check-out Time

1. Exhibits not in premium sale will be released at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening.
2. All exhibits have to be on display at all times.
3. If an exhibit is taken ahead of time, the exhibit will forfeit any premium, including sale money.

Rule 11 – For an exhibitor to qualify for competition above county level they must exhibit at the McCurtain County Free Fair

Jr. Livestock Department Rules

***Jr. Livestock exhibitors must be enrolled in grades K-12 in a McCurtain County elementary or secondary school or (certified) home schooled in McCurtain County, or be a previous semester graduate of a McCurtain County school. If the age of the exhibitor is 9 or above, you must be enrolled in 4-H or FFA.**

1. All entries and awards in this department shall be subject to the general Rules and Regulations
2. Each breed may or may not be judged separately.
3. All bovine animals must be halter broken. (Excluding pen of three calves.)
4. Exhibitors in this department must have continuously owned and personally cared for Market Steers and Breeding Cattle for a period of 120 days, and swine, sheep and goats, for a period of 60 days prior to the opening day of the fair. Prospect Steers owned by August 1st.
5. No junior exhibitor may remain on the fairgrounds overnight, unless accompanied by an adult with fair board permission.
6. No livestock will be released until 8 p.m. Saturday without consent of barn superintendent, and all livestock must remain on display in designated area.
7. Any calf, pig, lamb or goat that has been sold at a premium auction at any show preceding the show where ownership change has taken place is not eligible to be exhibited at this show.
8. Necessary health papers must be checked at entry time.
9. All state animal health statutes must be obeyed (quarantine included).
10. Drugs: No drug use of any kind. This includes drenches, shots, etc. Medication for specific illness must be prescribed by a veterinarian and division superintendent must be notified before administering drugs.
11. Animals cannot be confined away from the display area.
12. Grooming:
 - A. Paint will be allowed to cover glue only on cattle. No other paint allowed on livestock.
 - B. Use of powder and oil not permissible on swine.
 - C. Clipping on swine should be done at home; however, touchup clipping without restraint is permissible on fairgrounds.
 - D. No sharp practices- bruising, stimulants, etc.
 - E. All sheep must be slick shorn prior to arriving on fairgrounds. Final clipping allowed.
13. All exhibitors are eligible for showmanship in the classes in which they have entries.

14. All entries must be postmarked by dates on entry form.
15. Fair gates will open at 6 a.m. and close at 11 p.m.
16. All superintendents shall be responsible for their own area and shall make sure it is ready for their respective contest.
17. Any violation of any rule could result in disqualification of all exhibits of the family involved at the discretion of the rules committee.
18. Each exhibitor must exhibit their own animal in the show and sale ring unless excused by the Rules Committee.
19. Rules committee shall enforce above mentioned rules, as well as all other rules, and issue penalties as they deem necessary.
 - A. Probation – May be assigned to an individual, family, school, chapter or club.
 - B. Disqualifications – All entries of an exhibitor, family, school, chapter or club may be disqualified, as a rule committee deems necessary.
20. Probation or disqualification may be appealed before a quorum of the fair board.
21. Complaints must be filed in writing. All others will not be considered.
22. All animals shown in the wrong class will be disqualified.
23. All county bred animals must be entered as county bred prior to the judging of their class. If not entered as county bred prior to judging their class, they will not be eligible for any county bred awards.

McCurtain County Livestock Judging Contest

Superintendent

Rule 1: All contestants must be enrolled in McCurtain County School.

Rule 2: Contest will consist of 6 classes and 2 sets of reasons or 8 classes and 3 sets of reasons, based upon time and availability of animals and personnel. Start time is at 1 p.m. Friday.

Showmanship Award

The age group for goats and lambs will be as follows: 10 and under, 11-14 and 15 and up. For cattle only, the age groups will be 13 and under; 14 and older.

Age as day of show.

The showmanship exhibitor must be exhibiting an animal of the same species in which he/she was competing and must own the animal he/she is exhibiting.

The age group for swine showmanship will be as follows: 7 and under Peewee, 8-10 years Junior, 11-14 years Intermediate, 15 and up Senior