



2025 SFT EQUINE GENERAL RULES

WELCOME: The State Fair of Texas (State Fair) encourages your participation in this year's Pre-Fair Horse Shows and Rodeo performances. The Fair looks forward to hosting you and your animals at Fair Park, and we welcome you to Dallas.

FAIR DATES: The 2025 State Fair of Texas (the Fair) will be held at Fair Park, Dallas, September 26 to October 19, unless postponed, shortened, or extended by the Board of Directors, which they reserve the right to do if they deem necessary for the general welfare of all concerned.

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: See the Animal Health section for the State Fair of Texas for specific rules. Horse shows require a Negative Coggins (EIA Test) within 12 months prior to the event, as well as a Health Certificate within 30 Days. Documents must be presented upon check-in at the Animal Health trailer.

HOMELAND SECURITY/EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF LIVESTOCK/PROPERTY STATEMENT: During such time as deemed necessary by local, state, or federal authorities, the State Fair of Texas, and/or its officials may, temporarily or permanently, evacuate Fair Park under the authority of the Homeland Security Act. Incidents such as, but not limited to, extreme weather conditions, bomb threats, acts of war, declarations of war, code red of the Homeland Security System, etc., will be acted upon in accordance and cooperation with local, state, and federal authorities. Priority evacuation will be given to human life, then livestock and/or property. In such cases, exhibitors will turn over the care of their livestock or property to State Fair, or as directed by governmental authorities. Proper animal husbandry practices will be followed within reasonable expectations. At such time the evacuation notice is lifted, exhibitors will be allowed to re-enter Fair Park and claim their livestock or property.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES: State Fair reserves to its Executive Committee the final and absolute right to interpret these General Rules and Regulations, and/or any applicable special requirements as published in this premium list (collectively, the "Rules") and to reasonably settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to the Fair, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. An exhibitor who violates any of the following rules may forfeit all privileges, fees paid, and premiums and be subject to such a penalty as the Executive Committee may order. The failure of the State Fair to enforce any of the provisions, rules, rights, or remedies of this premium list or to exercise any options or sanctions herein provided will in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions, rules, rights, remedies, sanctions, or options. Special rules or conditions are published in each department where necessary. If there is a conflict between the special rules or requirements of any department or division and the general rules and regulations, the special rules or requirements shall apply.

LIABILITY STATEMENT: All exhibitors and exhibits shall comply with the Rules of the State Fair. State Fair shall not be liable to exhibitor for lost profit or other financial loss to exhibitor of any type or description including any special, indirect, reliance, incidental or consequential damages which may be caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of such Rules, or for any time delays, inadequacies of services of State Fair or any use of the premises or by any deficiency or defect therein. Additionally, the State Fair is not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage caused by the exhibitor or exhibitor's animal(s) that may arise directly or indirectly from the exhibitor's participation at the Fair. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any such loss, injury, or damage, whether to person or property, and shall indemnify State Fair, the City of Dallas, and their officers, directors, and employees against all legal proceedings arising therefrom.

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES: State Fair expressly disclaims any express or implied warranties (including warranty of merchantability), whether the goods or services are provided by State Fair, its vendors, or others (such as drug testing). The State Fair does not provide special security or guard services



for the livestock area and is not responsible for the acts of third parties. Exhibitor (and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian, if exhibitor is a minor) agree and acknowledge that State Fair will disqualify any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for ANY drug even if the exhibitor (and the exhibitor's parents/guardian) are innocent of any wrongdoing and had no role in the administration of the drug shown by the drug test. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, the State Fair shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor. Disqualification will result in the forfeiture of all premiums, and the exhibitor may be prohibited from exhibiting livestock in future State Fair shows.

NON-ADHERENCE TO THE RULES: Any person found guilty of misrepresentation or not abiding by the Rules on this premium list will be disqualified and denied the privilege of showing at the Fair.

PRESS INFORMATION: Members of the State Fair Agricultural Publicity Staff will be glad to furnish any information requested by representatives of newspapers, magazines, radio, and television stations. Results of judging will be furnished as quickly as possible. All reasonable cooperation and assistance will be given to all representatives of the working press covering the State Fair. Facilities for the working press will be available through the State Fair's Public Relations Department.

FIRE REGULATIONS: Smoking is prohibited in and around any building, regardless of whether such a building is open air or enclosed. No containers containing flammable liquids will be allowed in any buildings.

GUEST ASSISTANCE: It is the intention of the State Fair that all visitors be welcomed and treated with courtesy and respect. Should guests experience problems with a State Fair employee or vendor, these concerns should be reported immediately to State Fair Management, so that the matter can be addressed before the Fair concludes.

FIRST AID: The State Fair will maintain First Aid staffed by EMT paramedics and ambulances to provide emergency treatment and reference facilities for accidents and illnesses occurring in Fair Park.

ENTRY INFORMATION

1. **SIGNED LIABILITY STATEMENT:** Each exhibitor (and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian, if an exhibitor is a minor) must sign a statement acknowledging that he/she understands and will abide by the liability requirements and all Rules of the State Fair. If the exhibitor does not sign this statement (contained on the entry application forms), the application for entry will be rejected.
2. **ENTRY ELIGIBILITY:** The State Fair does not discriminate against any applicant, volunteer, customer, or patron based on race, sex, color, age, disability, religion, citizenship, veteran status, nationality, or ethnic origin. Competition in all shows/classes is open to the public, except where stated in this premium list. Only animals officially entered will be allowed on the Fairgrounds.
3. **TAX IDENTIFICATION:** All Exhibitors MUST complete an IRS Form W-9 and return it with entry applications.
4. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Exhibitors and their exhibits must meet and adhere to the requirements of these Rules and any and all Special Rules listed under the appropriate department(s) and division(s) as printed in this premium list to be eligible for entry.
5. **DISQUALIFIED EXHIBITORS:** The State Fair reserves the right to refuse entry of any exhibitor for violation of these Rules. Exhibitors who have previously been disqualified from the State Fair shows will not be allowed entry until the time expressed to them by the Executive Committee of the State Fair.
6. **DISEASED ANIMALS:** Diseased animals cannot enter the State Fair livestock area or grounds. Animal Health Officials, Superintendents, the Official State Fair Veterinarian, and/or State Fair Management will refuse unloading privileges to animals showing signs and symptoms of disease.
7. **ENTRY PROCEEDURE:** Refer to individual event special rules for entry procedures.



8. **ENTRY DEADLINES:** Entries must be postmarked by the U.S., Canadian, or International Postal Service no later than the applicable deadline date. Postal metered date is not acceptable. Certain Equine Events may be entered as specified within the specialty show rules.
9. **ENTRY FEES:** All applications for entry must be accompanied by all entry and related fees. If the entry does not have fees enclosed, the application for entry will not be accepted or accepted conditionally. All international exhibitors must pay fees in certified United States currency. Entry fees are not stall fees and do not dictate stall space. Entry Fees are dictated per show. Please see the individual show premium page to determine the entry fee and deadlines.
10. **RETURNED CHECKS:** Any exhibitor issuing a check for payment of entries, stalls, or passes that does not clear their account for any reason will have five (5) days in which to make payment to keep entries eligible to participate in the Fair shows, with a \$35.00 returned check fee assessed.
11. **REFUNDS:** (Unless otherwise noted) Entry Fees for competitive events are refundable when written notification of cancellation is postmarked before the applicable entry deadline. Admission and parking pass fees are refundable when a written notification of cancellation is received prior to the opening day of the Fair. Admission and parking passes must be returned with written notification.
 - a. All refund requests must be made for amounts greater than \$20.00.
 - b. Refunds will be forwarded to the entry applicant as soon after the closure of the Fair as they can be properly processed. Cash refunds are payable by bank check. All refunds, whatsoever, not claimed within 90 days upon receipt shall be deemed forfeited to State Fair.
12. **STALLS:** Stall Fees will be specified per event in the special event rules. Stalls are full box stalls of wooden construction and have doors. Stalls have a clay base (some sand), and shavings may be purchased at the show. Tack stalls will be available if room is available. All bedding must be purchased from the official SFT.
13. **FEED/HAY:** Pre-Fair exhibitors may use their own feed and hay and may bring small amounts onto the ground on a daily basis. Rodeo contestants during the Fair will need to bring their own feed and hay for daily feeding.
14. **ARENA CONDITIONS:** Footing is red sandy loam. The main coliseum arena is 120' x 240'. Pavilion Arena is 100' x 220'.
15. **PERSONAL MOTORIZED VEHICLES:** Exhibitor's personal motorized vehicles (ATVs, scooters, golf carts, or other similar vehicles) are not allowed on the grounds. All trucks, cars, and vans must be driven only by a licensed driver.
16. **RV HOOKUPS**
 - a. Fee: \$50/night. We will be offering overnight parking for Living Quarters Trailers. There will be a designated lot and passes available for purchase for both truck and trailer.
 - b. Rodeo contestants will be offered RV overnight parking in a designated area. Limited electrical hookups are available for \$150/weekend or dry camp parking (generator use) for \$100/weekend.

COMPETITION

17. JUDGES:

- Selection of Judges: Judges will be selected by State Fair Management. Judges will be familiar with all the Rules of the State Fair.
- Judges' Decision: The judges' decisions are final.
- Interference With Judges: If any exhibitor, in any way, whether in person or by their representative, interferes with the judge(s), or shows any disrespect to them or to show officials, State Fair management may excuse him/her from the ring and disqualify them from further competition; exhibitor premiums that may have been awarded may also be forfeited.
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18. PROTESTS:

- Filing:
- All protests must be in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$300.00, cash or certified check, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Such a protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be delivered to State Fair Management immediately after the occasion for such a protest.
- Protests will be accepted prior to, during, and within 2 hours immediately following the conclusion of judging.
- No protests will be accepted for overlooked entries.
- Protest for clock malfunction will be handled on the day of
- the event. If the clock fails during an event, a reride will be issued.

19. INVESTIGATION: Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation, and depending on the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a thorough investigation is completed.

20. ARENA COMPETITION:

- **NO** electronic/communication devices are allowed in the Arena. This includes cell phones, PDA's, laptops, walkie-talkies, and other communication devices.
- **Dress Code:** Western attire is always required in the competition arena unless specified by special event rules. Western attire includes long pants, boots, a cowboy hat (protective headgear is acceptable), and a long-sleeved collared shirt. Failure to comply with the dress code rules will result in disqualification.
- **Youth:** Unless otherwise noted in special event rules, youth will be considered age 18 or younger as of January 1, 2025.
- **No personal practice obstacles are allowed on the grounds for any event.**
- **Unworthy Exhibit:** Judges shall not award a prize to an unworthy exhibit. It is the intention of the management that no premium or distinction of any kind shall be given to any exhibit that is not deserving.

21. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: Unsportsmanlike conduct by any exhibitor, trainer, or rider will not be tolerated, and any violator will be excused from the arena. The State Fair of Texas cooperates fully with the drug testing programs currently in place within the APHA, AQHA, NCHA, and PHBA. Inhumane treatment of the animal in the show arena, warm-up arena, stall, runway, or elsewhere on the Show grounds, or cruelty to or the abuse of an animal by any person, is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. No level of abuse toward any animal at this event will be allowed. Foul language, misconduct, or abusive comments spoken to any contestant, spectator, staff member, or volunteer will result in immediate contestant disqualification and no refund of entry fees. Contestants are also responsible for traveling companions and family members. All decisions made by Show management are final. This section applies to race personnel as well.

22. PHOTOGRAPHS: Photographs of Champion and Reserve Champion exhibitors will be taken by the Official Photographer of the State Fair. Exhibitors of Champion and Reserve Champion winners must make themselves and their horses available for the taking of official photographs. All exhibitors hereby grant the State Fair permission to utilize photographs, images, or likenesses in whole or in part for use in official State Fair publications and promotions.

23. PREMIUM PAYOUT: Total premiums will be paid by the State Fair unless otherwise stated. Premiums will be forwarded to the designated person(s) as soon as they can properly be processed. Cash premiums are payable by bank check. Checks will be made payable to the exhibitor listed on the entry form. All premiums whatsoever, not claimed within 90 days upon receipt, shall be deemed forfeited to the State Fair. State Fair reserves the right to withhold premiums awarded in every case in which it shall appear to the State Fair Management that the Rules have not been complied with, or that fraud or deception has been practiced or attempted.

24. DISQUALIFICATIONS: If an exhibitor is disqualified after having won awards or premiums, the exhibitor placing below it WILL be moved up to fill the vacated position. There will be no refund of any fees due to disqualification.

25. UNAPPROVED DRUG USE: The showing of an animal that during its life has been administered any quantity of any unapproved drug, chemical, or medication is strictly prohibited.



- 26. UNMANAGABLE ANIMALS:** State Fair may disqualify any animal deemed unmanageable.
- 27. BITS:** To prevent abusive or illegal bits in the arena, the State Fair reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor found in violation of the rules and will forfeit any premium money if disqualified. The following is a list of illegal bits:
- Bicycle Chain Bits with prongs inside or outside
 - Snaffle with a high Port
 - Curb bit with shanks longer than 8.5"
 - Welding or changing the bit surface from smooth to bumpy or sharp, or wire wrapped mouthpiece.
 - No blood will be tolerated inside or outside of the mouth or face.
- 28. CONDUCT:** Any exhibitors or their representatives not cooperating with State Fair officials in all matters, while on the Fair grounds, will have their entries disqualified and will be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately and may lose the opportunity to participate in future competitions.
- 29. DISQUALIFY/CONDEMNATION:** State Fair reserves the right to condemn and/or disqualify any animal found in violation of the Rules, and the exhibitor will forfeit all premium money if the animal is disqualified. If an animal(s) is disqualified, the class placing will not change. A disqualified exhibitor may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit livestock in the future at the Fair, as well as any and all State Fair scholarship opportunities. Disqualifications due to violations of the State Fair Rules as stated in this premium list or the Entry Certification, Release and Indemnity agreement, and any consequences will be decided by State Fair Management. These decisions may appeal to the State Fair's Executive Committee, from whose decision there can be no further appeal.
- 30. EMERGENCY TREATMENT:** If an animal requires emergency treatment while on the State Fairgrounds, only a licensed veterinarian will be allowed to administer any drug, chemical or feed additive. An exhibitor may choose a licensed veterinarian other than the Official State Fair Veterinarian, but the Official State Fair Veterinarian MUST be notified in advance, and he/she MUST be present. Animals that are administered treatments with a withdrawal or extended elimination time period will be disqualified from competition. Furthermore, the Official State Fair Veterinarian, in agreement with State Fair Management, reserves the right to treat any animal if, in the opinion of the Official State Fair Veterinarian, it is in the best interest of the animal's health and well-being to be treated.
- 31. TREATMENT COST:** All treatment costs are the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- 32. POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION:** The City of Dallas and State Fair require a postmortem examination of any animal that dies during the Fair. This examination must be performed by the Official State Fair Veterinarian at the expense of the exhibitor.
- 33. DOGS:** Dogs are not allowed on the Fairgrounds, except service dogs aiding sight-impaired or physically challenged persons, or dogs under contract with the State Fair.