

# RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

## General Rules and Regulations

**ADMISSION:** The gate is open to the general public Saturday to Saturday from 8:00 AM until 10:00 PM. After 10:00 PM admission will close, and all patrons must leave by 11:00 PM.

1. Parking is FREE outside of the gates
2. Children 12 years old and younger: FREE admission as long as an adult accompanies them
3. Ages 13 – 61 years old: \$10.00
4. Ages 62 and older: \$5.00
5. Season Passes (all ages): \$40

**PETS:** No animals are permitted on the Fairgrounds except 1. Service animals trained to perform disability related tasks for someone with a physical or mental disability, and 2. Animals being exhibited. Emotional support animals are not permitted on the fairgrounds under any circumstances. All permitted animals may be temporarily restricted in certain areas and during certain times if needed to ensure the health and safety of others at the fair.

## **ADDITIONAL RULES AND INFORMATION:**

1. The Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Howard County Fair Association reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations, make new rules and regulations as needed, and resolve any situation which may arise, and it is not restricted by the lack of or omission of a specific rule or regulation.
2. All persons enter the fairgrounds at their own risk, and neither the Howard County Fair Association nor the Board assume any liability regarding injury or damage.
3. The following activities are **prohibited** on the fairgrounds, including in the parking area: Demonstrations, protests, soliciting, illegal or unlawful activity, distribution of printed material/flyers/advertisements, possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, and possession of marijuana (including by-products and devices used to consume marijuana products).
4. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the supervision of all minors.
5. The Howard County Fair Association and the Board are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
6. All motorized vehicles (golf carts, gators, ATV’s) and operators need to be authorized by the Board, and any operator must have a valid driver’s license.
7. The Board reserves the right to exclude from the fairgrounds any person (including any exhibitor, spectator, parent of exhibitor, vendor, and admission-paying patron) who is, in any manner, disruptive or exhibits inappropriate behavior that would disturb the public or be detrimental to the atmosphere of the Howard County Fair. Such behavior shall include, but not be limited to, any public cursing, abusive or belligerent language, or any language or conduct which causes others to feel threatened at any time with respect to any activity conducted on the fairgrounds.
8. Drones are not permitted on or over the fairgrounds (including the parking lot) except as specifically permitted by the Board.
9. No person may illegally or unlawfully carry, possess, or transport any firearms on the fairgrounds. Open carry is prohibited. Possession of other weapons or objects that might be used as a weapon is prohibited.

**VIOLATIONS:** In addition to the foregoing, the Board may determine sanctions for violations in its sole and absolute discretion. **ALL VIOLATORS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ESCORTED FROM THE PREMISES.** The Board may delegate such authority and discretion to its President, any officer of the Board, or the Board’s General Manager. Sanctions may include (but are not limited to) a temporary or permanent ban from participation in current or future events (whether or not such events are sanctioned by the Board, third-

party exhibitors, or vendors). By way of example, the Board may prohibit participation by individual persons who violate this policy from participating in exhibitions, classes or shows. In the event a person who has paid admission to the fairgrounds is asked to leave the premises, such admission shall be refunded upon the person leaving the premises.

**NOTICE:** The Howard County Fair Association, Inc., does not own any of the exhibits presented at the Howard County Fair. All exhibits, including animals, are privately owned. The sale of livestock at the animal Livestock Auction are private sales between the buyer and seller. The Howard County Fair Association, Inc., does not assume liability for any private sale. Discussions about the private sale of an exhibit will not take place in front of the general public trying to view the exhibits on display.

## **Exhibitors and Exhibitions**

**\*\*\*ALL EXHIBITORS AND COMPETITORS MUST REVIEW ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, FOUND ON THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR WEBSITE, THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO CERTAIN EXHIBITIONS OR EVENTS.\*\*\***

- This includes additional rules for indoor exhibits/contests/activities, open and 4-H/FFA livestock and dairy, small animal, open and 4-H/FFA horses and ponies, garden/fruit and vegetable, wool/fleece/fiber, home arts, honey and beeswax, farm crops, junior showmanship, fair scholarship, and other activities, exhibits, or events.
- Please visit <https://howardcountyfairmd.com/> for more information

## **ADMISSION AND PARKING**

1. One Season Pass will be given to exhibitors by the Superintendents for every \$15 of advance paid entry fees **only for animals presented** (brought to the Fair), up to a maximum of five season passes. All other exhibitors must purchase a pass or pay admission at the main gate. 4-H and FFA passes may be purchased through the 4-H Office or FFA teacher.
2. One parking permit will be issued to each family exhibiting livestock. Additional parking permits cannot be purchased. Department Superintendents will distribute parking passes.
3. No cars, trucks, trailers or campers shall be parked in areas other than those designated. ***NO PARKING BEHIND THE SWINE BARN AT THE DOCK DURING THE WEEK.*** There will be NO PARKING on Midway Boulevard or Hamilton Way or their fringes between 9 am and Midnight.
4. **Vehicles in violation will immediately lose their parking permit and may be towed at the owner's sole expense.**

## **ENTRIES**

1. By virtue of entering, exhibitors hereby acknowledge having read the rules of the Howard County Fair and the department(s) they are entering. Furthermore, exhibitors agree to follow said rules and understand that failure to do so may result in penalties up to and including being banned from the fairgrounds. Exhibitors accept that all decisions made as a result of not following the rules by the Howard County Fair Board or their designee are final.
2. The following are general rules only. **Please consult the species and event specific rules regarding entries on the Howard County Fair website (<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/>)**. Any conflict between rules will be resolved in favor of the rules specific to that species, event, or exhibition. The Board reserves the right to update or promulgate new rules as needed.
3. The Howard County Fair Association reserves the right to return entry forms and entry fees for any entry, livestock or otherwise. The Board has provided guidelines to each Superintendent for the purpose of limiting entries if entries exceed space available. Entries may also be prohibited if they are not keeping with the atmosphere and purpose of the Howard County Fair.
4. The Howard County Fair is not responsible for damage to any entries.

5. Before entering any exhibit, each exhibitor must obtain an Exhibitor Number, as all records are kept by those numbers. Address labels are helpful. **Use that same Exhibitor # for ALL exhibits.**
  - a. All **Open Class Indoor** exhibitors will receive a number at the front of the **Home Arts Building, if they do not enter on-line.**
  - b. All **4-H Exhibitors** must get a number at the 4-H Office before the Fair starts.
  - c. All animals entered for competition will be entered by numbers, and the names of exhibitors will not be attached until after the awards have been made.
6. No exhibits will be accepted unless classified, and all group entries must be pre-entered. Space will be allocated only for animals and livestock **actually brought to the Fair, not the number entered.**
7. There will be no refund for entry fees for animal entries accepted but not brought to the fairgrounds.
8. Entry Fees (per head):
  - a. Open Beef: \$15.00 (includes \$10.00 tan bark bedding)
  - b. Open Dairy: \$5.00 (does not include bedding)
  - c. Open Sheep: \$2.00 (does not include bedding)
  - d. Open Goat: \$3.00 (does not include bedding)
  - e. Open Poultry: \$1.00
  - f. Open Rabbits: \$2.00 (does not include bedding)
  - g. All others: Please consult website (<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/>)
9. Entry Schedule
  - a. Livestock, Dairy, Rabbit, and Poultry (4-H, FFA, and Open Class) entries open online June 1st and are due by **July 1st**. Entries **cannot** be made after July 1st. Please consult the relevant rules and regulations for your species for details at: <https://howardcountyfairmd.com>.
  - b. Home Arts, Farm Crops, Fruits & Vegetables, Honey & Beeswax, and Wool and Fleece exhibitors can pre-enter online from July 2nd until July 20th at <https://howardcountyfairmd.com>. After the pre-entry deadline, entries can be made directly at the fair. Please consult each department's rules at <https://howardcountyfairmd.com> to determine when and where entries at the fair can be made. There will be no exceptions for late entries.
  - c. All others: please consult <https://howardcountyfairmd.com>.
10. Animal Health
 

The Board may reject or dismiss any animals that, in the Board's (or it's designees) sole discretion pursuant to evaluation processes established by the Board, do not meet (or are likely not to meet) health standards required by law (including the Maryland Department of Agriculture), by animal husbandry best practices, or standards set by the Board itself, including, but not limited, to standards designed to promote the health, safety, or comfort of the animals and persons at the fair or to ensure equitable and responsible exhibition. The Board's decision on animal rejection or dismissal is final.

## ARRIVAL

1. Upon arrival, entries must be checked in by the department head or species superintendent, as applicable. Registration papers for animals will be checked by the Department Superintendent and tattoos must match. All animals must be registered with their respective breed association to compete as that breed. An **Official Health Certificate** (see MDA Health Regulations) of an entry must be obtained from the State Veterinarian and presented to the Department Superintendent along with the Self-Certification Form.
2. Hamilton Way will be closed to traffic from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm on the first Saturday for the Jersey Show. No animals may be unloaded on the road during that time.

## EQUIPMENT

1. **Fans:** Please consult rules for each species.
2. **Other:** Aisles in all barns must be kept clear for wheelchairs and strollers (no hoses, cords, chairs, tables, or other items). All feed and tack must be in front of the animals in feed alleys (for Cattle barns) or in designated pens (for Sheep, Goat, and Swine barns).

## PREMIUMS

1. Premiums will be paid only on the record shown by the Judges sheets. The possession of a ribbon or card is not sufficient evidence for the payment of premiums.
2. Premiums will be paid on closing Saturday after **8:00 pm**, unless otherwise announced, and on Sunday from **10 am to 2:00 pm**. Premiums not picked up will be mailed within 30 days. Complete address must be on entry form to receive check.
3. No exhibitor may receive more than two money awards in any one class or lot
4. Protest against any awards in any Department must be made in writing. All protests will be considered by the Management. Premiums on protested articles will be withheld until a decision is made. **Certain protests are required to be made within 24 hours of the incident--please consult the event-specific rules for details at <https://howardcountyfairmd.com>.**

## CONDUCT

1. **Private Sale:** Exhibitors may sell at private sale anything they have on exhibit but pick-up/delivery must occur **after the exhibit (livestock or otherwise) has been dismissed.** If pick-up is occurring on the fairgrounds during the fair, the person picking up must still pay fair admission.
2. **Any act of discourtesy to the Officials or Management will disqualify their entry for adjudication.** All Open and 4-H/FFA entry forms and Code of Ethics **MUST** be signed where designated by the exhibitor (as applicable).
3. All incident reports must be submitted in writing to the Howard County Fair Office within 48 hours of the incident occurring. Said incident reports must include the name and contact information of the individual(s) making the report, a brief explanation of the incident in question and must be signed. This rule will not prevent the Board from reviewing incidents as necessary to ensure the safety, harmony, and protection of the Howard County Fair, its guests and the Howard County Fair Association.
4. **Washing:** Washing of animals must occur in designated areas. All hoses attached to wash rack must have working nozzles.
5. **Tie-Out Time – 8:30 pm.** Tie outs are for 4-H/FFA animals. Tie out space for Open Class will be in the designated space as available. The route to tie out will be designated.

For livestock exhibitor questions, please contact your superintendent. For all other questions, please email **HOWARDCOUNTYFAIRMD@GMAIL.COM.**