

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

General Information:

1. General Information is part of the National Western Stock Show General Rules and Regulations, published in the annual Livestock Premium Book at nationalwestern.com.
2. Invitational Show: The National Western Stock Show is an invitational Livestock Show. NWSS reserves the right to extend, withhold, or revoke an invitation to any Exhibitor or Contestant.

Preamble:

3. The National Western Stock Show, organized exclusively for educational purposes, sponsors and presents livestock exhibitions to educate the livestock industry, its members, and the public on improved breeding, feeding, and care practices. The Show includes judging, premiums, and awards to support these exhibitions. Recognizing the educational value of Extension Services, 4-H Clubs, and FFA Chapters, the Show includes a junior livestock division for 4-H and FFA members in good standing to enter beef, lambs, goats, and swine, subject to these General Rules and Regulations, Junior Livestock Show Rules and Regulations, Auction of Junior Livestock Champions Rules and Regulations, specific division rules, and 4-H/FFA membership requirements.

Interpretation and Administration of Rules and Regulations:

4. The National Western Stock Show reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules, settle disputes fairly, and amend or add to these rules as deemed necessary. Violators forfeit privileges, premiums, and face penalties as determined by the Show or prescribed by law.
5. If specific or special division rules conflict with General Rules and Regulations, Junior Livestock Show Rules and Regulations, Auction of Junior Livestock Champions Rules and Regulations, or The National Show Ring Code of Ethics, the specific or special rules govern.
6. By entering, participants agree to comply with all rules in the National Western Stock Show Livestock Premium List, including ownership duration, continuous possession and care (Junior Division), and prohibitions against unethical fitting, filling, alteration of conformation or color, meat tampering, or illegal use of drugs or prohibited substances. Violations, including tampering or sabotage, may incur penalties under Section 18-9-207, Colorado Revised Statutes, including up to 18 months in prison or a \$100,000 fine.

Ethics Policies:

All participants and entries are subject to these rules, with violations resulting in penalties as determined by the Show or prescribed by law.

7. Legal Regulation: Under Section 18-9-207, Colorado Revised Statutes, sabotaging, tampering, administering growth stimulants, or substituting unauthorized animals is a crime, punishable by up to 18 months in prison or a \$100,000 fine, with the convicted person's name and photograph published in media. Under Section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes, llama professionals are not liable for injuries or deaths from inherent risks of llama activities.
8. Care of Animals: Participants must deliver animals to the appropriate department on time, attend to them during exhibition, and present them to judges when called. Failure to present an animal in the ring when called results in disqualification. Participants must answer judges' questions to assess the animal's value.
9. Conduct: False representation, interference, or unsportsmanlike conduct will be addressed by the Show, which may withhold premiums or take other actions. Interfering with judges or disrespecting the Show may result in forfeiture of awards.
10. Inhumane Treatment: Any abuse of animals results in immediate disqualification without recourse.
11. Alteration of Conformation and/or Structure by Prohibited Substance or Unethical Fitting: Prohibited substances or unethical fitting include injecting or administering illegal drugs, materials for deception (e.g., altering conformation, color, or soundness), or using diuretics for cosmetic purposes. Attaching foreign objects (e.g., hair, cloth, fiber) or manipulating tissue for deception is prohibited. Violations result in disqualification, a \$150 per head penalty, and immediate removal from the grounds.

12. Drenching: Drenching with drench guns is permitted, but stomach pumps are prohibited, resulting in disqualification and other sanctions. Refer to specific Junior Market Lamb, Goat, Steer, and Swine rules.
13. Artificial Coloring and Fitting: Using grooming materials that produce artificial color, detectable by rubbing, or adding hair, hair-like substances, cloth, or fiber violates these rules, resulting in immediate disqualification and removal from the grounds. Natural color of beef animals cannot be altered, except for products matching natural color used below the knees and hocks and on the switch. Participants represent that entries are not misrepresented, except for trimming feet or blocking hair, and agree to inspections, with the Show's conclusions being final without recourse. Participants release the Show from claims related to inspections or rulings.

Violation of Rules:

Animals found in violation of prohibited substance or unethical fitting rules face the following penalties:

14. Permanent barring from competition at the Show.
15. Barring of the participant, their family, representatives, or agents from future participation.
16. Reporting of participant's name, address, and actions to other livestock exhibitions, affecting eligibility.
17. Release of actions to media.
18. Return of all awards, banners, premiums, prizes, ribbons, and trophies upon demand.
19. Participant liability for damages, including testing, labor, consultant, legal, and court costs incurred by the Show due to rule violations.
20. Animal Disqualification: Disqualified animals do not advance lower-placed animals, except in the case of a Grand Champion disqualification, where the Reserve Grand Champion may advance at the Show's discretion, with no appeal. Awards are given only to compliant participants.
21. National Western Livestock Sale Proceeds: Sale proceeds are subject to prorated deductions for drug testing fees. Proceeds are issued after final billing, per Packers and Stockyards Division approval.

Schedule of Events:

22. The Show reserves the right to cancel events or change schedules as necessary.

Entry Policy:

23. By applying for entry, participants acknowledge reading and agreeing to comply with the Agreement of Responsibility and Liability, General Rules and Regulations, Junior Livestock Show Rules and Regulations, Auction of Junior Livestock Champions Rules and Regulations, specific division rules, The National Show Ring Code of Ethics, and the USDA Wholesome Meat Act Quality Assurance Certificate.
24. Entry Process: Entries must be submitted online at nationalwestern.com, fully completed, and signed per instructions in the Livestock Premium List.
25. Participants are responsible for errors in entry preparation, with material misrepresentations subject to sanctions.
26. Entries must include all fees in U.S. funds. Checks that do not clear incur a \$40 fee per bank presentation, with five days to resolve payment to maintain eligibility.
27. Stall Space: Paid entries do not guarantee stall space. One stall per delivered animal is provided, with cow-calf pairs receiving two stalls. Pen assignments may be adjusted based on nose count upon arrival.
28. Stalling Requests: Requests are made with online entries and considered operationally, but not guaranteed.
29. Late Entries: Late entries for Open, Junior Breeding Heifers, Carload, and Pen Shows are accepted until December 10 with a \$35 late fee per carload, pen, or head. Substitutions within the same breed and owner are allowed until December 10, 2024, with no substitutions permitted thereafter.
30. Cancellations and Refunds: "Hill"/Junior cancellations must be submitted in writing by December 10, 2024; "Yards" cancellations by January 1, 2025. No entry fees are refunded, and cancellations after deadlines are not refunded. Refunds are at the Show's discretion and processed post-show.
31. Entry Dispute: The Show may reject or conditionally accept entries from participants violating rules of any livestock exhibition. Space is not guaranteed, and a committee may recommend removal of animals lacking merit on the opening day.

32. **Erroneous Entry:** Erroneously entered animals may be transferred to their proper class before judging upon committee review. Judged classes will not be reopened.

Ownership of Animals:

33. Junior Market animals must be owned by November 1, 2025; Junior Breeding animals by December 1, 2025. See Junior Livestock Show Rules and Regulations.

Tie-Outs:

34. Tie-outs are provided for cattle (except Junior Market Steers and Catch-A-Calf), assigned by Superintendents, available after 7:00 p.m. daily in designated areas. Non-compliance may result in disqualification and withholding of premiums.

Health Certificates:

35. Clean CVI health certificates are required within 30 days of arrival. Animals with visible dermatitis, lesions, or fungus (ringworm) will be removed without refund.

Use of Animals for Judging Contest:

36. All entered animals may be used for 4-H, FFA, Collegiate, and Intercollegiate Judging Contests and educational purposes.

Breed Registration and Practices:

37. Animals may compete in only one breed classification, registered in the recognized U.S. registry or eligible for U.S. registry if registered abroad. Breed associations are responsible for ensuring non-deceptive registration practices and indemnifying the Show and the City and County of Denver against losses or claims arising from registration issues.

Group Classes:

38. Animals in group classes must first be entered and shown in a single-animal class.

Utilities and Equipment:

39. Electrical (Yards): Power is provided with 6, 20-amp outlets per Day Pen (24' x 32'). No generators are permitted.
40. Electrical (Hill): No generators allowed. Only approved, commercial-grade extension cords and wiring are permitted, avoiding pathways, alleys, or wet surfaces.
41. Blocking Chutes and Fans: Blocking chute permits are required, available at entry or check-in. Junior Market Lamb and Goat exhibitors may use fitting stands in designated areas without permits. Junior Market Steer exhibitors may bring one chute per participant. Unpermitted chutes will be removed. Fans must be suspended, with no cart/dolly or butt fans allowed.
42. Storage Space: Storage is allowed only in designated areas. Unauthorized items (e.g., hay, feed, tack, chutes) may be confiscated per Denver Fire Department orders.

Appearance of Exhibits:

43. Stalls, pens, and exhibits must be cleaned by 7:00 a.m. daily. Non-compliant participants will be charged for cleaning costs, collected before release.

Removal of Exhibits:

44. Animals must remain on grounds until the designated release time, unless sold in auctions and approved by management.

Releases:

45. Animals will not be allowed to leave the National Western grounds without a signed release paper. They can obtain their release from the show superintendent or the in the Feed and Stalling offices.

Prizes and Premiums:

46. Awarding of Premiums: For classes with fewer entries than premiums offered, judges may award prizes based on merit. Single-entry classes receive one cash premium. Premiums may be split if classes are divided.
47. Awarding Champion Prizes: Judges must select a reserve animal. Only first-prize winners compete for championships; second-prize winners from the champion's class are eligible for reserve champion.
48. Paying and Presentation Awards and Premiums: Premiums are processed post-show. Unclaimed checks are forfeited after 90 days. The Show may withhold awards for rule violations, fraud, or unpaid entries. No premium checks under \$15 are issued.
49. Decision of the Judge is Final: Judges' decisions are final. Post-award fraud or errors may be reviewed by the Show or a referee, with no appeal.

Protests:

50. Protests require a \$500 cash or certified check, forfeited if not sustained. Protests must be written, clearly state the cause, and be submitted immediately after the issue arises, before or immediately after class judging. No protests are accepted during championship judging. Judging continues during investigations, and protests about overlooked animals or exhibitor/parent errors on junior market weight cards are not considered.

Force Majeure and Governmental Regulation:

51. The Show is not liable for delays or failures to perform due to force majeure (e.g., equipment failure, strikes, acts of God, animal diseases, wars, economic downturns) or compliance with governmental regulations (e.g., public health, animal disease prevention, environmental protection).