
POLICY 305: PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines governing protests, demonstrations, and expressive activities on Iowa State Fairgrounds in a manner that protects constitutional rights while ensuring public safety, orderly operations, and the uninterrupted conduct of scheduled events:

- The Iowa State Fair recognizes and respects the constitutional right to lawful expression under the First Amendment.
- This policy is content and viewpoint neutral and applies equally to all persons.
- Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions may be imposed to ensure safety, access, and event continuity.
- All protest activity must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Fair-Time

During the dates of the Iowa State Fair, including the dates immediately leading up to the Fair and after the Fair's conclusion, no person or group of persons shall march, picket, protest or demonstrate on the Fairgrounds in any manner that interferes with the convenience or safety of any Fairgoer, exhibitor, vendor, or employee.

- Individuals interfering with the convenience or safety of others shall be directed to locations outside Fairgrounds entry gates.
- Protest activity outside the gates is permitted during Fair-time so long as it does not block or impede ingress or egress, obstruct sidewalks or roadways, or interfere with Fair operations.
- Failure to comply with lawful direction may result in removal from Fairgrounds property.

Closed Events (Ticketed / Restricted Access Events)

For events hosted by private entities in which the Iowa State Fairgrounds are closed to the public and admission to the Fairgrounds is limited to ticketed patrons, credentialed staff,

or authorized individuals, protest or demonstration activity will not be permitted inside the secured perimeter or beyond entry gates.

Open Events (Public Access / Main Gates Open)

When the Fairgrounds are open to the public and admission to specific events is limited building-by-building, the Fairgrounds are a public forum. Protest activity may occur only in public areas and must not interfere with operations or scheduled events.

- Protestors shall not block streets, sidewalks, entry gates, or emergency access routes.
- Protest activity that disrupts normal operations or compromises public safety may be subject to enforcement action.

Prohibited Signs and Display Materials

The following restrictions apply at all times:

- Signs mounted on poles, sticks, rods, handles, or similar rigid supports are prohibited.
- Signs must be handheld and constructed of lightweight materials.
- Signs that are obscene, graphically explicit, or patently offensive are prohibited.
- Signs may not obstruct sightlines, crowd movement, or be affixed to Fair property.

Enforcement

- Iowa State Fair Police and Fair management are responsible for enforcement.
- Lawful orders may be issued to ensure compliance.
- Enforcement actions are content and viewpoint neutral and based on conduct and safety considerations.

Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from Fairgrounds property and/or enforcement under applicable law.

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