



2026 Junior Livestock Exhibitor Code of Conduct & Parent Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct which is made a part of the Livestock Competition Handbook was developed by the 16th District Agricultural Association (DAA), who operates under the auspices of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Marketing Division and Branch of Fairs and Expositions, for the primary purpose of producing the annual California Mid-State Fair. The Code of Conduct is further enhanced with additional rules and regulations, including the State Rules.

Junior Livestock Exhibitor Code of Conduct (Part I)

Policies for Exhibitor Conduct

1. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is PROHIBITED.
2. Exhibitors shall use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures will be tolerated.
3. All junior livestock exhibitors must groom and wash their own animals while they are on the Fairgrounds. Any assistance must come *ONLY* from another junior livestock exhibitor who is qualified to exhibit an animal at the 2026 California Mid-State Fair, identified by a wristband issued by the Fair. Parent or adult assistance is not allowed. Adult verbal assistance is allowed. The Fair's designated Livestock Species Superintendent will oversee barns, and all enforce rules. See competition handbook for more information.
4. Possession of any weapon or illegal drugs on the Fairgrounds, is prohibited.
5. Possession of alcohol or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Fairgrounds, and/or being under the influence by any underage exhibitor (minor) on the fairgrounds, is prohibited.
6. Use of fireworks or sparklers is prohibited on the Fairgrounds. Smoking or vaping of any kind is PROHIBITED on the Fairgrounds.
7. Any exhibitor whose conduct jeopardizes the health and safety of another exhibitor, animal, or the public, will be immediately expelled from further participation in the 2026 California Mid-State Fair and possibly future fairs. The exhibitor is to be removed from the grounds immediately and lose the opportunity to show and sell his or her animal(s) through the Junior Livestock Auction or Replacement Heifer Sale. Health or Safety issues include, but are not limited to, the actions involving weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or fireworks, as mentioned in items #4-6 above, and not caring for, i.e. feeding and watering, the exhibitor's animal project.

Policies for Animal Treatment

1. Any effort to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal by treating the animal, internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. Treatments that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, the use of artificial hair coloring (sprays, etc.) excessive use of common products such as fly spray, ointments or liniments or other similar products. Excessive use is defined as the use of a substance to the point that it irritates the animal. For reference livestock can be fit with livestock show supply spray paint from the knees and hocks down. Cattle may have livestock show supply spray paint applied to tail heads, tails and tail switches.
2. Adding false hair or hair-like material, fleece or skin to any portion

of the animal's body is not allowed and will result in immediate disqualification. Causing the animal to ingest any liquid or substance not considered part of an accepted and normal livestock diet, or in quantities not considered normal for livestock, is deemed illegal and inhumane. For example: the use of alcoholic or carbonated beverages as a drench or filler.

3. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, or depressants, which alter the physical or physiological state of the animal, is not allowed. Exceptions to this rule would be a California Licensed Certified Veterinarian's treatment for recognized disease or injury, or recommendation for tranquilizing breeding animals in heat that might compromise the safety of others. The Livestock Office must receive notification from the Licensed Certified Veterinarian of the details of any such prescribed treatment in writing. The substance used in this treatment must have been approved by The Food and Drug Administration for use in meat producing animals.
4. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to feed, water and care for any animal they have entered in the Fair throughout the entire fair, including any period following the sale of the animal prior to the end of the Fair. All market animals must be given a final watering by approximately 5:00 p.m. on Sunday July 26, 2026, to ensure that the animal arrives in a healthy condition at the harvesting plant. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals until they are loaded on the truck for transport to designated harvest facilities.
5. Any animal that appears ill or injured while at the Fairgrounds must be reported to the livestock office. A veterinarian must check any animal considered unhealthy. If it is determined that the animal is carrying a communicable disease, the animal will be removed from the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds will not assume the cost for this action. The exhibitor must assume the full expense of the veterinarian's services. Exhibitors must review the Fair's Biosecurity Protocol document(s).
6. Any animal that is determined to be unmanageable, or could be a safety hazard to the public, will be removed from the Fairgrounds. The Livestock Superintendent/Fair Management makes this decision final.
7. It is considered abuse to excessively shrink or excessively exercise an animal.
8. Other than to reduce higher than normal body temperature of an animal that is overheated ice is not to be applied to the body of an animal. Ice in a bucket of water is permitted. No cooling devices, electrical stimulation tools or shockers may be used. Ice used to cool down the Body temperature of a Hog is acceptable.
9. Physical abuse of an animal will not be tolerated. For example: when moving hogs, care should be taken not to excessively beat or hit an animal (either by a person or with an object).
10. For the safety of the animal and the public, animals are not to be left unattended on fitting tables or in blocking chutes.
11. All lambs and goats must be shown with their front feet on the ground as practiced by acceptable showmanship procedures. If this policy is not followed, the judge may ask the exhibitor to

leave the ring or may place the exhibitor at the bottom of the class.

12. Upon arrival at the fair, or any time during the fair or on arrival times, a certified veterinarian will check animals for any infectious disease, open sores, abscesses, injury, parasites or any unhealthy condition. Those animals determined to have an infectious disease will be asked to immediately leave the fairgrounds. For example: animals found to have live active Ringworm or active Sore Mouth will be asked to leave the fairgrounds, It is strongly suggested that the health of each animal be evaluated prior to coming to the Fair. The Fair Association is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer or care of these animals.
13. Exhibitors should remember that the cost of the junior livestock programs are offset in part by the general public, therefore the livestock area needs to be presentable at all times. All Livestock stalls/pens must be cleaned out daily before 9:00 a.m. and exhibitors should make every effort to keep the barns clean at all time for the public.
14. Exhibitors shall be responsible for security of their animals in stalls or pens. All beef cattle and dairy cattle shall be securely tied with a neck rope in addition to a suitable halter. All sheep, goat, and swine pens shall be securely closed and fastened before the exhibitor leaves the barn area. Please do not put padlocks on any gates or pens.
15. Blocking chutes must stay in designated areas and be kept clean. Each blocking chute must have an official identification band issued by the Livestock Office. For cattle, there will be a fee of \$20.00 per blocking chute and a limit of one (1) blocking chute for every three (3) head of cattle maximum. Blocking chutes without official identification bands will be removed from the fairgrounds.
16. Sheep and goat fitting tables will be charged a fee of \$5.00 per table. When fitting tables are not in use they must be folded and stored out of the way.
17. Direction shall be focused more on the exhibitors excelling in leadership, education, and citizenship with their livestock projects.

Consequences for Violation of Exhibit Policies

1. If any violation of rules, regulations or policy occurs prior to the junior livestock auction or replacement heifer sale, the exhibitor will not be allowed to sell his/her animal.
2. If these violations occur after the junior livestock auction or replacement heifer sale, the exhibitor will receive only market resale value (as determined the day of the auction) for the animal. Any remaining money paid by the buyer in purchasing the animal through the auction, will be placed into a general scholarship fund or put towards educational purposes at the fair. The buyer will receive the animal.
3. If it is determined that an exhibitor has violated the Fair's Code of Conduct or other rules, regulations and policies, the exhibitor may be asked to leave the grounds and may not be allowed to exhibit livestock at the following year's fair and possibly for additional years. For example: An exhibitor who violates a rule and is asked to leave the grounds in 2026 will not be allowed to exhibit livestock at the 2027 Fair. The CEO may establish further sanctions or strengthen sanctions as a result of any violations. The exhibitor may then request in writing to exhibit livestock at the 2026 Fair. This request will be reviewed by the CEO prior to an official entry being accepted or rejected.
4. Minor violations of exhibit conduct, not involving health or safety concerns, may be given one (1) verbal warning. This verbal warning will be documented and noted by a signature from the exhibitor and Livestock Superintendent or Fair Management. On

the second violation, the exhibitor will be asked to leave the fairgrounds and any awards and/or auction check will be withheld.

Eligible Entries

1. All 4-H, FFA and Independent entries must be submitted online and must have an electronic approval as designated by management must have the exhibitor's, parent or guardian, and leader/advisor electronic approval.
2. All Code of Conduct Agreement Forms must be signed by exhibitors and their parents or guardians to be considered eligible.

Junior Livestock Auction

NOTE: The auction and resulting proceeds is a privilege, not a right. You are producing a product that will enter the Food Chain. The Fair's goal is not only to provide the seller with an avenue to sell, but also provide the consumer/buyer with quality, healthy, safely produced products by being knowledgeable and responsible producers.

1. Every exhibitor of a market animal at the California Mid-State Fair is required to complete a Certificate of Animal Medication form prior to selling animal at the Junior Livestock Auction. Animals will not be eligible to sell if Medication Form is not completed and properly signed. Exhibitors, as the owner of their market animals, acknowledge that they will be responsible for their animal if rejected at a harvesting plant due to the presence of drug or other residue. If drug or other residue is detected, the exhibitor understands that he/she may be liable to the buyer and/or the Fair for an amount equal to three (3) times the purchase price and may also be liable for any legal fees and civil penalties (Food and Agriculture Code Section 14363).

Seller's Responsibility

1. All animals must follow the sale order as determined and compiled by Fair staff. Failure of the exhibitor to be present and ready to enter the ring with their animal will be automatically disqualify the exhibitor from the sale.
2. No advertisement will be permitted on animals. Do not ask the auctioneer for special announcements. Adornments are permitted on Champion and Reserve Champion Market animals only. No exceptions.
3. All exhibitors must write *Thank-You* letters to their auction buyers.
4. Exhibitors selling livestock through the Auction are solely responsible for feeding, watering and general well-being of their own animals until the animals are loaded onto the trucks for transport.
5. **No parent, leader/advisor or exhibitor shall contact buyers for the purpose of purchasing repurchasing or giving back an auctioned animal.**

Replacement of Lost or Condemned Carcass

1. The California Mid-State Fair will replace an animal lost or condemned after being loaded for transport to the processor with a carcass or portion of equal weight and grade. In the case of a lost or condemned (except when the condemned carcass is due to drug or chemical or any unapproved substances) resale animals, only the market price will be paid.
2. In the case of a condemned carcass due to drug or chemical contamination, contagious disease or sign of genetic disease

syndrome exhibitors will forfeit earnings and all premiums and pay all costs associated with expenses the Fair may incur.

Solicitation of Buyers/Non-Sale Market Animals

1. Absolutely no "For Sale" signs will be allowed until after the respective species has sold at Auction.
2. Any exhibitor found soliciting buyers for non-sale market animals before or during the Auction will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by Fair Management. Individual sale of market animals must be reported to the Livestock Office. No responsibility is incurred by the Association or the Fair for non-auctioned animals sold by exhibitors.

Parent Code of Conduct (Part II)

As a Parent of a Livestock Exhibitor at the California Mid-State Fair, you are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will jeopardize the participation of your club, the exhibitors, your child or any member of your family.

1. As a parent, I acknowledge that the child must demonstrate his or her own ability, knowledge, and skill as an exhibitor of show animals, and that the assistance of an adult in the washing, grooming, fitting or showing of his or her animal while at the fair is prohibited. Verbal assistance by an adult is acceptable.
2. As a parent, I acknowledge that direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is PROHIBITED. All judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect at all times. As a Parent of an exhibitor, I will not allow any person connected with my child's animal project to direct abusive or threatening conduct toward any show official or staff.
3. Parents shall use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures will be tolerated in the Livestock Area or on the fairgrounds.
4. Possession of any weapons or illegal drugs on the fairgrounds is prohibited.
5. As a parent, I/We are aware that responsible alcohol use is allowed on the Fairgrounds, and I will limit use of alcohol so that a proper example is set for my exhibitor child, or children of others around us. Any child/student or children/students of other club/chapters around us. Any abuse of alcohol or public drunkenness by Parent in or around the Livestock and Equestrian facility is PROHIBITED. This type of activity is further monitored by law enforcement.
6. As a Parent I acknowledge that the use of fireworks or sparklers is prohibited on the fairgrounds or in the camping area.
7. The entire fairgrounds is a Non-Smoking facility, smoking or vaping of any kind is PROHIBITED.

Any Parent whose conduct jeopardizes the health or safety of show management, exhibitors, animals, or the public, will be immediately expelled from the California Mid-State Fair and will jeopardize the participation of any member of the Parent's family. The Parent is to be removed from the grounds immediately and could jeopardize their child's opportunity to show and sell through the Junior Livestock Auction in 2026 and subsequent years.

By signing this Agreement, all parties (livestock exhibitors of market, breeding and small animals, their parents or guardian), do hereby agree to the Junior Livestock Exhibitor and Parent Code of Conduct as expressly stated above. It is further agreed that the parent(s) have read, understand, and agree with the entire content of the Livestock Competition handbook, Part I and Part II of the California Mid-State Fair Code of Conduct all made a part here in. All Code of Conduct forms are to be viewed at submission of Fair Entry, which is on or before Monday, June 1, 2026. Code of Conduct forms must be signed and submitted via Showworks upload by June 1, 2026. Failure to read and sign this agreement causes ineligibility to show at the 2026 Fair.

Exhibitors name (Print): _____

Club/Chapter: _____

Exhibitors Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent(s) / Guardian (s) Name (Print): _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____