

Mason-Dixon Fair

Code of Show Ring Ethics

The Mason-Dixon Fair has developed a Code of Show Ring Ethics to curtail unethical, deceptive, and fraudulent show ring practices.

The Code is as follows:

Exhibitors of animals at the Fair shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This Code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This Code applies to all livestock offered in any event or exhibition at the Fair.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the Code of Ethics will forfeit premiums and awards and may be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the Fair Board. Exhibitors who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of GUIDELINES for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of show official, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animal entries. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any fact relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors must show their own animals (unless more than one in class) and are expected to care for and groom their own animals while at the show.
4. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
5. Direct interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
6. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this Code of Ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this Code of Ethics.

7. The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal contravention of this Code of Ethics.
8. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the Fair Board for violation of the Code of Show Ring Ethics. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent of any proceedings of disciplinary action taken by the Fair Board may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.
9. The act of entering of an animal in the show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the Code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of Federal and State Statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.