

## **Brazoria County Fair Association**

### **2023 General Rules & Regulations**

For information not herein contained concerning entries in any department contact:

Brazoria County Fair Association, Inc., P.O. Box 818, Angleton, Texas 77516, or telephone (979) 849-6416, email: [contactus@bcfa.org](mailto:contactus@bcfa.org) or website: [www.bcfa.org](http://www.bcfa.org)

All exhibitors are cautioned to carefully read the following rules and regulations, as they will be strictly enforced, without deviation of any kind.

The Brazoria County Fair Association, Inc., hereafter called the Fair Association, reserves to its Officers and Executive Committee the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations, and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences, in regard thereto, otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to amend or add to these rules as, in its judgment, may deem advisable.

Any person who violates any of the General Rules or Department Rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums as well as may be subject to such penalty as the Disciplinary Committee may order.

Unacceptable conduct and failure to cooperate with security personnel, employees, or officials of the Fair in all matters of policy will be subject to disciplinary actions.

All exhibitors (except livestock) will be allowed to tear down and remove exhibits at designated times after closing on Saturday night, and at designated times on Sunday following closing. Vehicles will be allowed on the grounds only at those designated times. The respective buildings will be closed and locked at closing time and reopened at the designated time.

The Brazoria County Fair Association shall not be responsible or liable for, and shall be saved and held harmless by any licensee or exhibitor from and against all claims and damage of every kind, for injury to or death of any person or persons and for damage to or loss of property, arising out of or attributed directly or indirectly, to the operations or performance of any exhibitor or licensee under these rules, including claims and damages arising in whole or in part from the negligence of any exhibitor or licensee.

### **The Fair Has Adopted the Following Rules and Regulations**

1. The Fair will open officially on Friday, October 13, 2023, at 2 pm and will close Saturday, October 21, 2023, at midnight, unless modified, cancelled, postponed, or extended by the management. Management hereby claims the right to modify, cancel, postpone, or extend, in whole or in part, from any cause whatsoever, for the general good of all concerned. In the event any situation arises, which at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee of the Fair Association, requires immediate suspension of Fair activities or a part of same, including activities of Fair patrons, concessionaires, exhibitors, carnival operators or individuals, firms, or

corporations, with or without contracts to be present on the Fairgrounds, it is agreed that they will cease their operations or activities immediately upon notice until directed to reopen or resume activities by the Fair Association. All parties agree that no liability shall be asserted against the Fair Association due to such closing or ceasing of activities even for lost profits, rent paid, or expenses of any kind. All refunds, if any, will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

2. Exhibitors must submit entries as designated in the rules of each department. All rules, general and specific, should be read carefully. In case of any conflict of rules, departmental rules shall prevail.
3. Exhibitor must own all exhibits. All entrants must be Brazoria County residents unless otherwise specified in departmental rules. All entrants in the Market Animal, Ag Mechanic and Student Art divisions must be a U.S. Citizen with Social Security Number or Permanent Resident Card.
4. All student participants entered in a BCFA event must be registered in an accredited state, private or home school system. Students must comply with the academic requirements of the Texas UIL "No Pass No Play" policy, Texas House Bill 72.
5. Only contestants will be allowed free entry into the fair on the day of the contest; all others must pay.
6. Anyone attempting to interfere with the judges before the decision is rendered will automatically disqualify the entry in contention.
7. All entries must comply with departmental rules for entry and release.
8. Exhibitors will be required to keep their space and stalls in a clean condition by removing all filth and litter and place the same in the designated area where the sanitation force of the management may remove it with ease.
9. Ample security force will be maintained day and night and every effort will be made for security of the exhibitors and others in attendance, but the Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage to articles or animals while on the grounds or in transit thereto or there from, for any cause whatsoever.
10. Delivery gates to the Fairgrounds will be closed and locked daily at 12 noon, and at 9 am Saturday. All merchants, vendors, concessionaires, exhibitors, and others making deliveries on the Fairgrounds must have their vehicles off the grounds by that time, except by special permission.
11. The Brazoria County Fair Association has the right to search all vehicles entering or leaving the premises.
12. No weapons, including toy guns, fireworks or illegal drugs of any type will be allowed on Fairgrounds.
13. No selling or giving away of helium balloons or toy guns will be allowed on the Fairgrounds.

14. No unmanned aircraft systems will be allowed to fly over the Fairgrounds (i.e., drones, remote control planes, etc.) unless approved by the Fair Manager or Officers.
15. No pets allowed (dogs, cats, etc.) except those entered in contests or those used as service animals. All pets must be leashed while on the grounds and owners must properly pick-up and dispose of their pet waste.
16. All exhibits left more than 30 days from the close of the Fair become the property of BCFA and will be disposed of as the Association sees fit.
17. All entertainment must be approved in advance. BCFA will not approve any entertainment that conflicts with other entertainment during the fair.
18. No advertising or promoting products or services on grounds during fair, without prior approval from BCFA.
19. Soliciting - No person will be permitted to distribute advertising matter upon the fairgrounds except from their places of business or exhibit space. The tacking or posting of any advertising bill, cards, etc., other than within the space occupied by exhibit is strictly prohibited. The distribution of hand bills, flyers or heralds will not under any circumstances be permitted. Any violation of this rule is liable to fine of expulsion from the fairgrounds. Begging, soliciting, singing or public speaking are absolutely prohibited unless special permission is obtained from the Fair Manager with approval of Board.
20. There will be no overnight camping in the parking lot at any time during the fair. Campers and motor homes will not be allowed to enter the parking lot at any time. Stock trailers with living quarters will be allowed into the parking lot for unloading of cattle but will not be permitted to be used for overnight camping. If found in violation of this rule, you will be forced to remove the trailer from the grounds.

## **PRESS**

21. Members of the Press are invited to attend the Fair. Proper credentials must be presented to the Fair Office prior to entrance.

## **PERSONAL EQUIPMENT**

22. All motorized equipment etc., not provided by the fair, must have owner's insurance, and must be approved by the Fair Manager or Officers of the Association. Owners must sign a Cart Policy and equipment will not be allowed on the grounds prior to 10 days before the Fair and will need to be removed within 10 days of closing of Fair. Only prior approved Executives, Non-Executives, and Committeeman will be allowed to operate motorized equipment on the BCFA fairgrounds. Any questions and concerns will be addressed by the Fair Manager prior to the Fair or any event.

23. Golf Cart or Motorized Vehicle Use - Anyone operating a golf cart or motorized vehicle must have a valid driver's license, sign a Cart policy, and be approved by the Transportation Superintendent.

## **PREMIUMS**

24. The premiums of the Fair are open to BCFA entries only or as otherwise specified in the rules of individual departments. All premium vouchers given by BCFA as payment for premiums must be claimed during the week of the Fair.
25. The premiums shall be designated by ribbons or awards as indicated in respective departments.
26. Merit must exist to win an award.

## **JUDGES**

NOTE: It is the objective of the Brazoria County Fair Association, Inc. to invite individuals of outstanding ability to judge the various departments. Much depends upon the caliber of the person doing the judging and it is the Fair's ambition to provide experts. By reason of the early date of rule change deadline, it is impossible for the Fair Association to publish a complete roster of judges, but assurances are given to the exhibitors that the best available will be supplied.

27. No one will be allowed to act as judge in any class in which he/she exhibits or has family that exhibits.
28. The judges shall judge only animals or articles as presented within the department.
29. Judges will be familiar with all rules, regulations, and procedures of the Brazoria County Fair Association.
30. The Chairman of each department shall host and provide orientation for judges in that department.
31. If any person willfully makes known to the judge, his/her ownership of an exhibit or pedigree thereof, he/she shall be disqualified.
32. Decisions of the judges and classifiers are final.

## **PROTESTS**

33. A determination that a party has violated a Fair Association rule may only be protest by a contestant, exhibitor, parent, guardian, 4H Leader or FFA Advisor. Protests must be made in writing and be accompanied by a CASH deposit of \$250, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. If the protest concerns livestock substance abuse, an additional \$2,000 CASH deposit must accompany the written protest to cover the cost of a second drug test and related

expenses. The additional \$2,000 is not refundable regardless of the outcome of the protest. Selection of a laboratory to conduct the second drug test will be at the sole discretion of Fair Association. If protest is withdrawn prior to Disciplinary Committee meeting, refund will be issued. A signed and dated statement of protest must plainly explain the cause of complaint or appeal and must be delivered to the Fair Manager. Protests will be accepted prior to, during and up to noon the day immediately following the occasion that prompted the protest. After noon the following day, you will forfeit your right to a protest. The Disciplinary Committee shall serve as the arbitrators.

## **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The Disciplinary Committee has the responsibility for the resolution of all protests and disciplinary issues, including, but not limited to, the determination of discretionary penalties for rule violations.

34. The Disciplinary Committee will only entertain protests regarding rule violations or disciplinary matters if the Committee Chairman and/or Superintendents have rendered a previous decision. As part of this responsibility, the Committee is charged with the responsibility of investigating and hearing all evidence developed in connection with a rule violation or other disciplinary matter, and then reaching a binding decision based on that evidence.
35. A party has 10 days from notification of Disciplinary Committee's decision to appeal to the Executive Committee if there is additional evidence to present. A signed and written request for appeal must be received by the Fair Manager within the above referenced ten-day period. The decision of the Executive Committee will be the final decision of the Brazoria County Fair Association. No further action will be entertained.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

36. Any person that engages in conduct that interferes with or disturbs any fair event, or other unacceptable conduct, or fails to cooperate with security personnel, employees, or officials of the Fair Association in all matters of policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, the loss of all fair privileges for a period to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.