

GENERAL RULES

A. Entry Rules

1. All exhibitors agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the North East Community Fair Association.

2. All entries must be the product of the exhibitor and must have been grown, produced, made or completed since the close of last year's Fair (September 16, 2017).

3. The Association may limit the number of entries in the same class that it will accept from a single exhibitor.

4. Rules and Times for registration. **See page 3.**

5. Reasonable care will be taken to protect exhibits on display, but the Association cannot be held responsible for accidents, loss, or damage by water, fire, theft or otherwise, whatever may be the cause or extent of the damage or loss. (A limited number of locking cabinets for the display of handicrafts and collections are available. To reserve a space in one of these cabinets send a postcard indicating the length, width and height as well as contact information to P.O. Box 373, North East, PA. 16428, e-mail necommfair@gmail.com or call Sandy at 725-8149 by **September 5, 2018**). The space for each exhibit will be limited to a volume not exceeding 21 inches long by 14 inches high by 12 to 15 inches deep.

6. Age divisions must be specified to ensure proper judging.

7. The Fair Rules Committee reserves the right to amend these rules as its judgment may determine.

8. Unless otherwise noted, ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PLACED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19,

9 am to 7 pm. Entries may be registered on this date, but your wait in line will be longer. Save time by registering early. Early registration will be available from the publication of the Fair Book (print or digital) through September 5, 2018.

9. Who may exhibit? Any individual who meets age division standards may enter exhibit(s). Group and/or team exhibits are restricted to Classes or Departments specifically designed for them. No residency requirements are applied except in the case of statewide contests in Dept. 15, Section 6.

B. Age Divisions (age/grade at the time of the Fair)

1. Divisions are groups of entrants defined by age and/or school grade at the time of the Fair.

2. Entries that do not have a division specified will be judged as "Adult" entries or the highest division for that class.

3. Standard Divisions for judging are:

- Pre-School (**R**) – under age 5 where such entries are accepted.
- Primary School (**P**) – in grades K-2
- Intermediate School (**I**) – in grades 3-5
- Middle School (**M**) – in grades 6-8
- High School (**H**) – in grades 9-12, **including those entrants under age 19**
- Adult – (**A** or no letter) entrants age 19 and older
- Special Divisions based on skill levels are found in the Cake Decorating competition.

4. In some departments, age divisions may be

C. Entry Codes

All entries have a "code" based on the following Department – the department number (two digits) Section – digit or digit and letter preceded by a zero; "01" if no section is specified

Class – two digits

Category (division of class) – upper case letter or letters

Sub-Category – one or two digits

Age Divisions - only needed if entrant is under age 19 or entering in Departments 8, 9, 18, 19.

These codes are used in the entry/judging books, entry tags, and registration forms, see the graphic below.

D. Judging & Premiums

1. Judging Policy - It is the policy of the North East Community Fair Association to apply rules that enforce fairness in the judging of entries. All entries are to be "blind-judged," that is, all marks that would indicate the identity of an entrant are covered before judging takes place. No fair personnel other than the Association's Judging Coordinator, Director of Special Contests, and Wine & Beer Department Chairs select judges. These persons do not make entries in areas for which they have selected judges. In addition, department

Dept. 18, Section 1, Class 1 – Accessories, E. Tote Bags, 2. Fancy
(Entrant is in Middle School)

Entry Code: 180101E2M

Age division, under 19 only
2nd sub class
1st sub class
Class
Section
Department

workers or chairs DO NOT advise judges during judging except to clarify the criteria already printed in this fair book. Department chairs and workers may, however, enter the departments where they volunteer.

2. Premiums, as listed, will be given for meritorious exhibits. Ribbons will be awarded for the places listed in each class. Judges will award places as they deem worthy; therefore, **not all places in a category may be awarded**. No judging using the “Danish” system is allowed (multiple first, second or third places). Best of Show entries are awarded rosettes but do not receive additional premiums (See Department 22, Section 4.)

3. The decision of the judges shall be final except where mistakes, fraud, misrepresentation or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is **proved**. In such cases, the Rules Committee will make the decision. The case may be appealed to the Association Board of Directors whose decision cannot be appealed. Department personnel who choose to make entries in the department which they supervise shall not be involved in the selection of judges for that department.

4. During judging, the exhibit hall or exhibition area is to be closed to everyone but fair officials, judges and necessary attendants. (This rule does not apply to those exhibits Department 22, Section 3, or to the judging of Department 21, Wine & Beer, which is open to the public.) No exhibitor or his agent shall communicate with judges during the time of determining awards except to answer questions posed by the judges. All writing, marks or symbols which might identify the exhibitor must be covered by the exhibitor prior to judging. (Excluded from this regulation are the recipes for entries in Department 15, Section 6 – see contest rules.) Any exhibitor interfering with judges during judging will forfeit any premium or other award to which he/she might otherwise be entitled. Department workers and aides shall not advise judges on the merit of exhibits, but may advise judges regarding the conformity of entries to Fair regulations.

5. Premiums

a. All premium checks will be mailed by the last week of November. Premium checks must be cashed by February 1, 2019.

b. All persons wishing to donate premiums to the Fair must endorse their premium check and write “pay to the order of the North East Community Fair” beneath their endorsement, then return the check to the Fair Treasurer, 9503 Sidehill Rd., North East, PA 16428. The Pennsylvania Fair Fund does not allow the Fair to benefit from uncashed premium checks.

c. No additional premiums will be paid to Best of Show winners by the Fair. Sponsors may provide additional premiums or other prizes.

6. Use of the **Fair Theme** in exhibits. The Fair Theme is located on the front cover of this book. The Fair Theme is required or may be used for certain entries in the following departments: Dept. 15, Cake Decorating, Cup Cake Contest; Dept. 17, Floral Arrangements - Niches; Dept. 19, Photography; and Dept. 20, Group Exhibits.

E. Acceptance/Rejection/Removal of Entries

1. Chairpersons of departments reserve the right to reject any entry of inferior quality or of insufficient merit to warrant recognition and may disqualify entries that do not conform to regulations. Fair officials may refuse to accept exhibits which are in poor taste, violate community standards, or are potentially libelous.

2. The Fair management may, at any time, order the removal of any exhibit or part of exhibit that is in bad or decayed condition as soon as the exhibitor has been notified. (Messages left on answering machines, cell phones or e-mail messages shall be considered notification.) Any article unfit to show may be excluded. All food products except those in Department 15, Section 1, Class 12 must be edible. Food products on display may be treated for the control of insect pests only after consultation with the Fair management. In any case, such treatment must be reported to the Fair management and the exhibitor.

3. If the Fair management has reasonable proof that an exhibit has been entered in a previous year’s fair, then the exhibit will be disqualified. Collections that have been added to since a prior exhibition are excluded from this rule, however the exhibitor should list the additions to the collection on the back of their entry tag. (Photographs and/or video tapes of exhibits at prior fairs shall be considered reasonable proof.)

4. The Fair management may limit the number of entries in any department or class due to the space available.

5. Upon prior request (must be filed before Sept. 5), the Association may approve entries which do not conform to the classifications in this book. However, such individual entries may only be accepted for display and will not be eligible for the award of ribbons or premiums. All items entered under “Other” or “Miscellaneous” categories in a class must be substantially different from the categories listed under that class. Extra categories or classes that conform to the rules and regulations of existing Fair departments may be added at the discretion of the Fair President, Registration Coordinator and Department Chairperson if **TWO** or more entries exist for that division or a prior request has been filed.

6. **Number of specimens required.** Where a number of specimens are required for an entry, failure to enter the correct number of specimens will result in **disqualification** of the entry.

F. Release/Donation/Disposition of Entries

1. **No exhibit may be removed before 4 p.m., September 22, 2018.** All exhibits must be claimed before **5 p.m.** on the same date. **The Association is not responsible for unclaimed exhibits which may be sold at the auction.** Exhibitors who cannot conform to this rule should refrain from entering the Fair or **may designate someone to pick up their exhibit(s) at the appropriate time. (Perishable entries in Department 15, Section 6, [Sander’s Markets Contest and Favorite Grape Recipe] are excepted from this rule and must be removed following judging.)**

2. Each exhibitor (or their agent) must present his/her Registration Card to a department worker before they are allowed to claim and remove an exhibit.

3. Exhibitors may elect to donate their exhibits for sale at the auction held at **5 pm** on Saturday, Sept. 22. Persons wishing to donate an entry should indicate this when it is registered. Unless exhibitors claim their entries before **5 pm** Saturday, September 22, or request their return in writing, all entries in Department 12 (Hay & Grain), Department 13 (Vegetables), Department 14 (Fruits & Edible Nuts), Department 15 (Home Produced Products), Department 17 (Floral - individual specimens only) and Department 23 (Apiary & Maple Products) will be sold at such auction.

G. Fundraising/Sponsors/Vendors

1. Sponsorships: The North East Community Fair Association accepts sponsorships to help defray Fair costs. Individual departments or sections of departments may be sponsored. Sponsorship levels are Patron (up to \$49), Bronze Patron (\$50 to \$99); Silver Patron (\$100 to \$249); Gold Patron (\$250 to \$499); Platinum Patron (\$500 and up). In addition patrons will be recognized on the Fair's website. For further information about sponsorships, please contact the Fair Book Editor. To be included in the 2019 Fair Premium Book, sponsorships must be made on or before April 3, 2019.

2. Chinese Auction: Donations to the Chinese (silent) Auction (normally valued between \$15 and \$40) are accepted through Monday, September 17. Persons age 18 and older may purchase tickets for this auction during the Fair up to the time of drawing on September 22. Wine may only be won by entrants over the age of 21, to be verified at the time of delivery. Persons must make sure that their name and telephone number is legibly written on their entry ticket to receive prizes if they will not be present at the time of the drawing. *Due to the new state regulations for "Small Games of Chance," Chinese Auction winners must provide their name and address at the time their prize is picked up.*

3. Vendors

a. Outdoor. A limited number of **outdoor** vendor spaces will be available near the Fair's main entrance. For a nominal fee, the vendor will have access to this space during the Fair and have limited access to electricity (1000 watts maximum). Local non-profit organizations are given a preference when vendor spaces are assigned. Use www.NorthEastCommunityFair.org to access the Fair website and select the vendor tab for further information.

b. Indoor. An indoor vendor fair will be held in the High School Gym Lobby on Saturday ONLY from 10 am to 5 pm. Please call (814)725-9187 or email NECommFair@gmail.com