

# **General Rules for 4-H National Livestock Judging, Skillathon and Quiz Bowl**

Board of Directors, Chair – Dr. John Rayfield and Vice-Chair – Bonnie Boyden

Contest Chairs, Judging - Dr. Brian Bolt; Skillathon - Dr. Rosie Nold, Quiz Bowl - Steve Pritchard

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The National Youth Livestock Contests endorses and supports the International Association of Fairs and Expositions National Code of Show Ring Ethics (“Code of Ethics”). All contestants and their families agree to abide by this Code of Ethics and all rules and regulations. Each state representative, State 4-H Program Leader and any other designated representative, coach, contestant and their family are responsible for becoming familiar with those sections and abide by those rules and regulations at all times. The purpose of the contest shall encourage all coaches, contestants and their families to maintain a high standard of ethics while competing. Violation of rules and regulations shall lead to penalties for contestants and possibly their coach and/or team which may include disqualification, barring from future contests, removal of awards and reporting the infraction to the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers’ Association (NALSARMA).

## **LIABILITY**

It is understood that all persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests, whether participating as a contestant, parent/guardian of a contestant, coach, or in any other capacity, acting on behalf of themselves, their principals, their agents or employees, agree to make no claim against the National Youth Livestock Contests, any official or anyone acting by, for or through them or any of them, for loss, damage or injury to any property, animal or person resulting from any cause.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The National Youth Livestock Contests reserves to its Executive Committee, Management Committee and Contest Superintendent the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to a Contest, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine.

## **ENTRIES**

**THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS RESERVES THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO REJECT ENTIRELY OR ACCEPT CONDITIONALLY ANY ENTRY OR APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OR TO WITHDRAW CLASSIFICATION AND PRIZES IN ANY CONTEST UPON THE CLOSING OF ENTRIES WHENEVER IT, IN ITS SOLE JUDGMENT, DETERMINES THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS (SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS PRINTED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION).**

## **REJECTION OF ENTRY/DISQUALIFICATION**

### **OVERRIDING RULE**

- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that there is no right, whether constitutional, statutory, or otherwise, to participate or compete in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl).
- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that all procedures and remedies set forth in the rules applicable to decisions to reject entries or disqualify contestants are the sole and exclusive procedures and remedies available to the contestant. Further, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, waive any and

every right to challenge, question, or contest any and all actions or inactions, rules, regulations, deadlines and schedule for the National Youth Livestock Contests, and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, will not now or at any time in the future pursue any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever against the National Youth Livestock Contests or its Executive Committee, Management Committee, Contest Superintendent, or any other parties affiliated with the National Youth Livestock Contests, or cause or knowingly permit any such legal action to be pursued in any federal, state, or municipal court, administrative agency, arbitral forum, or other tribunal, arising out of any of the matters covered by the rules.

- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that submission of an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl) be treated as consent to the following:
  - a. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to submit the name of a disqualified contestant to whomever it chooses, including, but not limited to, the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Rule Infraction Database (the "database"), any appropriate governmental agencies or authorities, and representatives from any State 4-H Office, other livestock contest, exposition or fair.
  - b. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to use any means deemed necessary to obtain information from the database and/or any other State 4-H Office, college, university, livestock contest, exposition or fair regarding any contestant submitting an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl). Information requested may include, but is not limited to, decisions to disqualify or withhold an entry acceptance from the contestant in a prior contest.
  - c. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to reject an entry submitted by or disqualify a contestant from competition if he or she has been disqualified from competition in any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, or has had a premium withheld or withdrawn by any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, for any reason, including, but not limited to, rules infraction, misrepresentation or fraud.

## REJECTED ENTRIES

- The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the contestant, coach, state representative and/or their respective State 4-H Office. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's signatures.**
- Any rejected entries will be returned to the contestant with a written explanation regarding reasons for rejection.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of the decision to reject an entry, the coach must submit a written request for reconsideration, to include a detailed explanation of why the entry should be reconsidered, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. The request for reconsideration must be received by the respective Contest (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl), within 48 hours of the received date of emailing of the rejection of entry notification from the Superintendent. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.

## DISQUALIFICATION

- Contestants, parents/guardians, and coaches who fail to comply with any and all rules, regulations, deadlines and schedules are subject to premium cancellation, disqualification from current and future participation in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl), and/or other third parties, including governmental authorities where appropriate.
- Following a determination that a contestant has been disqualified for a rule infraction, that state's coach shall receive written notification of the determination to include an explanation of the reasons for the determination and any resulting disciplinary action.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant re-examination of the decision, he or she may submit a request for reconsideration. The request for reconsideration shall be in writing, and must include a detailed explanation of why the decision should be reviewed, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. All reconsideration requests must be received within 48 hours if seven (7) days prior to the event; 24 hours if within seven (7) days of the event; and within 60 minutes of notification on the day of the contest. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.
- Direct criticism or interference with the committee member, volunteer, official, judge, fair or livestock contest management, other contestants, breed representatives, or event officials from the contestant, contestant's parents/guardians, contestants extended family or coach before, during, or after the contest is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock contest management, or other contest officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

## MAKING ENTRY

The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the coach. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's signatures. Any and all entries submitted following the applicable deadline will be automatically and immediately rejected, and such entries will not receive a refund in any amount for any fees paid in connection therewith. All official entry forms that are physically submitted to the State 4-H Office must be completed using blue or black ink pens, not pencils. All official entry forms that are submitted to the State 4-H Office via email, or any other electronic medium, must be submitted as full-color copies to confirm the use of a blue or black ink color in completing the forms. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, any signature present on an official entry form will be treated in all respects as having the same force and effect as an original manual signature, and all persons shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the validity and authenticity of such signature, so long as such signature is in one of the following forms: (a) an original manual signature; (b) a scanned or photocopied manual signature in full-color; or (c) any other electronic signature permitted by applicable law that is a true representation of the signatory's actual signature (including, without limitation, an electronic signature affixed to an official entry form through an electronic signature system such as DocuSign).**

## FRAUD

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee reserves the right to withhold the awards and premiums in any case in which it shall appear that the regulations have not been complied with, or that fraud or deception has been practiced or attempted. Ribbons, medals and prizes awarded shall be forfeited.

## **SEVERABILITY**

If any portion, provision, or part of the rules are held, determined or adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable, void or voidable for any reason whatsoever, each such portion, provision or part shall be severed from the remaining portions, provisions or parts of these rules, and such determination or adjudication shall not affect the validity or enforceability of such remaining portions, provisions, or parts.

## **GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION**

In the event that any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever is pursued pursuant to a dispute arising under, or relating in any manner to, the rules, the rules shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska, without regard to its conflict of law principles, and the parties to such legal action shall submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the federal courts located in the State of Nebraska and the state courts located in Sarpy County, Nebraska.

## **FORCE MAJEURE AND GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION**

In view of the fact that the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee d.b.a. National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) ("The Contest") is a non-profit corporation depending to a great degree upon the contributions and services of a substantial number of donors and volunteers, the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee deems it appropriate and prudent to be excused from liability, as set forth below in this paragraph, in the event of early cancellation of its events, operations and activities by reason of force majeure and/or governmental regulation. Accordingly, the following shall apply to the operations and activities conducted by the National Youth Livestock Contests.

### **Force Majeure**

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from a force majeure occurrence. A force majeure occurrence is defined as any occurrence arising from causes beyond the reasonable control of the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) which delays or prevents performance by the otherwise required by this Agreement, including but not limited to any (i) breakage or accident to equipment, machinery or facilities; (ii) any strikes, lock-outs or other labor difficulties; (iii) statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders or rules issued by governmental authorities; (iv) judicial decrees or orders; (v) acts of God; (vi) animal diseases and/or quarantines; (vii) wars, riots or insurrections; (viii) civil disobediences, public demonstrations or sabotage; (ix) fires, floods, explosions or inclement weather; (x) inability to obtain necessary labor, materials, supplies, utilities or transportation; (xi) depressions, recessions or other economic downturns; (xii) embargoes or energy shortages; or (xiii) other causes beyond the National Youth Livestock Contests reasonable control.

### **Governmental Regulation**

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) good faith compliance with applicable governmental statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders, rules or other directives, including but not limited to compliance with governmental directives concerning public health and safety, animal disease prevention, detection and response (including animal quarantine and/or destruction) and protection of the environment.