

# Melbourne Royal Fleece Competition *Special Regulations 2025*

## 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

### 1.1 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply unless the context requires otherwise.

**Agent** includes any person, agent, association or corporation engaged by or on behalf of the Exhibitor and any person acting or purporting to act on the Exhibitor's behalf (including any person who is an invitee of the Exhibitor and regardless of whether the person is remunerated or not).

**Body** includes any society, organisation or body within or outside Australia having similar objects to Melbourne Royal and, without limitation, includes:

- Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory Inc;
- Royal National Agricultural & Industrial Association of Queensland;
- Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia;
- Royal Agricultural Society of NSW;
- Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania;
- Royal National Capital Agricultural Society;
- Royal Agricultural Society of WA; and
- any breed association or society recognised by Melbourne Royal.

**Business Day** means a weekday on which banks in Melbourne are open for business.

**Chief Executive Officer** means a person occupying or acting in the position of Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne Royal.

**Chief Judge** means the person appointed by Melbourne Royal to occupy or act in the position of Chief Judge of an Event.

**Closing Date** means the date and time set out in the Relevant Schedule after which entries for the Event will not be accepted by Melbourne Royal.

**Commercial Grower** means an attribute of the individual fleece, not the exhibitor. A Fleece is taken to have been grown by a commercial grower if the grower does not have a stud of the breed of sheep from which that fleece was shorn.

**Entry Form** means an entry form (or online equivalent) supplied by Melbourne Royal for an Event.

**Event** means the Fleece Competition. Event also includes the period of bump-in and bump-out for the Event and the period of the Event competition.

**Event Participant** includes judges, stewards, contractors, spectators, Exhibitors and all persons present at the Venue during the Event.

**Executive General Manager of Agriculture** means a person occupying or acting in the position of Executive General Manager of Agriculture of Melbourne Royal.

**Exhibit** means the animal, person or item entered into an Event by an Exhibitor.

**Exhibitor** means the owner of the Exhibit, and if the owner is less than 18 years of age, the parent or guardian of the owner who signs the Entry Form. The Exhibitor is the person showing the Exhibit and is responsible for the Exhibit entry. The Exhibitor may include the Owner, Lessee or Agent of the Owner or Lessee and may be an individual, syndicate or company.

**Inspector** means a person described as such in the Regulations.

**Judge** means a person appointed by Melbourne Royal to judge an Event.

**Livestock Manager** means the person occupying or acting in the position of Livestock Manager of Melbourne Royal.

**Motor Vehicle** includes a truck, trailer, float and stock transporter but does not include a caravan.

**Melbourne Royal** means The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Limited t/as Melbourne Royal (ACN 006 728 785).

**Regulations** means the rules, regulations and conditions of entry set out in the Relevant Schedule; these Special Regulations; and the rules, regulations and conditions of entry set out on the Entry Form for the Event.

**Relevant Schedule** means the Schedule which applies to the particular Event in which the Exhibitor has submitted or proposes to submit an entry in accordance with these Regulations.

**Schedule** means a Schedule of events and prizes issued by Melbourne Royal and without limitation, a reference to a Schedule includes a reference to the rules, regulations and conditions set out in the Schedule.

**Show** means the Melbourne Royal Show.

**Showgrounds** means the Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, Victoria and includes without limitation all areas owned, used, rented or leased by Melbourne Royal.

**Steward** means a person occupying or acting in the position of steward.

**Venue** means the site or location at which the Event is held.

**Veterinary Surgeon** means a veterinary surgeon appointed by Melbourne Royal.

## 1.2 INTERPRETATION

Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation. The following rules apply unless the context requires otherwise.

- a. The singular includes the plural and conversely.
- b. A gender includes all genders.
- c. If a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning.
- d. A reference to a person, corporation, trust, partnership, unincorporated body or other entity includes any of them.
- e. A reference to a Regulation is a reference to a Regulation of these Regulations.
- f. A reference to a Regulation, rule or condition of entry is to the regulation, rule or condition of entry as amended, varied, supplemented, novated or replaced, except to the extent prohibited by these Regulations.
- g. A reference to a right or obligation of any two or more persons confers that right, or imposes that obligation, as the case may be, jointly and severally. In the event of an inconsistency between the Special Regulations and a Schedule, the Special Regulations prevail to the extent of the inconsistency unless otherwise provided.

## 2 ENTRIES

### 2.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING AN EVENT

- a. All entry forms must be received at Melbourne Royal's Administrative Office, located at Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, Victoria 3032 by the date stipulated in the Important Information for Exhibitors section. All entries must be accompanied by the applicable entry fee.

### 2.2 FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS

- a. Exhibitors will be considered first time Exhibitors if they have never competed at the Show, or if they have not competed in any of the previous 10 Melbourne Royal Shows.

### 2.3 ENTRY FEES

- a. The entry fee becomes the property of Melbourne Royal on receipt by Melbourne Royal and, without limitation, the entry fee in respect of an entry which is withdrawn, or which does not satisfy the requirements for entry or conditions of eligibility will not be refunded.
- b. No entry fee applies to Exhibit/s donated to the Charity nominated in the Important Information for Exhibitor's section.
- c. No entry fee applies to an Exhibit entered in the District Fleece Competition. All Exhibits entered in the District Fleece Competition will be sold, with the proceeds from their sale donated to a nominated charity.

## 3 EXHIBITS

### 3.1 OWNERSHIP OF EXHIBITS

- a. Fleeces are to be shorn from sheep that have been the true property of the Exhibitor for at least six months prior to being shorn.
- b. An Exhibit which was not the true property of the Exhibitor for at least six months prior to being shorn will be ineligible for the Event.

### 3.2 NUMBER OF EXHIBITS

There are no restrictions to the number of Exhibits entered by an Exhibitor.

### 3.3 DELIVERY OF EXHIBITS

- a. All Exhibits must be delivered to Melbourne Royal or to Australian Wool Handlers, by the Closing Date nominated in the Important Information for Exhibitors section.
- b. All Exhibitors must place an Exhibit Card inside each fleece bag.
- c. Exhibits must be delivered in sturdy (preferably clear) plastic bags, or wool packs, with Exhibit Cards placed inside.
- d. Fleece bags will be available from Melbourne Royal upon request.
- e. All Exhibitors are required to state if the fleece entered is either a ram or a ewe/wether on the Exhibit Card.

### 3.4 COLLECTION OF EXHIBITS

- a. All Exhibits not donated to the nominated Charity are to be collected from the Melbourne Showgrounds at the time/s outlined in the Important Information for Exhibitors section.
- b. Any Exhibit not collected will be sold, with the proceeds of the sale donated to the nominated Charity.

### 3.5 DISPLAY OF EXHIBITS

- a. Melbourne Royal will make every effort to display all Exhibits entered in the Fleece Competition for the duration of the Show.

## 4. CONDUCT OF EXHIBITORS

### 4.1 GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- a. All Exhibitors and/or persons entering the Showgrounds are required to adhere to the Conditions of Entry whilst on the Showgrounds.

### 4.2 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS

- a. Where an Exhibitor fails to comply with any of the Regulations, Melbourne Royal may impose one or more of the following penalties on the Exhibit or Exhibitor or both of them:
  - i. Disqualification;
  - ii. Suspension;
  - iii. A fine;
  - iv. Order the Exhibit, the Exhibitor or any associated Agents or invitees be removed from the Melbourne Showgrounds; or
  - v. Any other penalty as deemed appropriate in Melbourne Royal's absolute discretion.
- b. All penalties will be decided by the Executive General Manager of Agriculture or appointed representative, and the Chair of the Fleece Committee, will be informed of the outcome.
- c. Without limiting the above, Melbourne Royal may forfeit an award, and upon the forfeiture, the Exhibitor must return any ribbon, money, prize card or other evidence of that award to Melbourne Royal immediately after receiving notification of the forfeiture.

### 4.3 COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIONS

- a. The Exhibitor must fully comply with the directions and requests of Melbourne Royal and any of its representatives.
- b. Without limitation, directions and request of Melbourne Royal may apply to the entry of the Exhibit, the Exhibitor, the conditions of the Event, the conduct of the Exhibitor, the decision of the Judge or the award of prizes.
- c. Exhibitors who fail and/or refuse to comply with directions may be liable for disqualification and for non-acceptance of entry at future Melbourne Royal Shows.

### 4.4 STATEMENTS

The Exhibitor must not make a statement regarding an Exhibit, which in the opinion of Melbourne Royal is fraudulent, false, erroneous, misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive.

### 4.5 UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

- a. Melbourne Royal is committed to providing a fair and equitable venue for all participants, free from all forms of harassment, bullying and violence. The following behaviours will not be tolerated and may result in the Exhibitor/persons being removed from the Showgrounds and/or disqualified from the competition and formal procedures initiated:
  - i. aggressive or abusive behaviour or language;
  - ii. violence or unwanted physical contact;
  - iii. bullying;
  - iv. harassment;
  - v. sexual harassment;
  - vi. unlawful discrimination;
  - vii. victimization
  - viii. defamation;
  - ix. any other form of unacceptable behaviour as deemed by Melbourne Royal.
- b. Persons breaching acceptable standards of behavior may be banned from entering future Melbourne Royal Events and/or the venue.

### 4.6 ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK RESTRICTION

- a. Unless Melbourne Royal gives prior written approval, pets animals or livestock other than Exhibits must not be brought onto or permitted to enter or remain on the Showgrounds.
- b. Registered assistance dogs are permitted but proof of status must be provided on request by any Melbourne Royal Official.

## 5. POWERS OF MELBOURNE ROYAL

### 5.1 POWER TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT AN ENTRY, EXHIBIT OR EXHIBITOR

Melbourne Royal may refuse to accept an Entry, an Exhibit or Exhibitor or any of them.

### 5.2 POWER TO CANCEL OR ALTER

- a. Melbourne Royal may:
  - i. alter the Closing Date for an Event, or the Closing Date for receipt of any particular entry;
  - ii. remove, or cause to be removed, any Exhibit from the Melbourne Showgrounds;
  - iii. amend any entry for an Event to, without limitation, substitute an alternate competition or class for the competition or class in which the Exhibit is or was entered;
  - iv. alter the conditions of any Event;
  - v. refuse to display an Exhibit;

- vi. rule that an Exhibit or Exhibitor may not compete or is ineligible to compete;
  - vii. alter the date, time or place on or at which any Event is scheduled to take place or to be judged;
  - viii. alter the Judge scheduled to judge any Event;
  - ix. cancel any Event; or
  - x. cancel, amend or merge classes if less than four Exhibits are entered.
- b. The rights set out above apply notwithstanding:
- i. Melbourne Royal's acceptance of an entry for an Event;
  - ii. Inclusion of an entry for an Event in the Event Catalogue
  - iii. The issue of an exhibit ticket to an Exhibitor or in respect of an Exhibit or an Event; or
  - iv. The issue of any other document to an Exhibitor or in respect of an Exhibit or an Event.

### 5.3 MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Melbourne Royal may recognise, act upon and enforce any penalty imposed by a Body on an Exhibit or Exhibitor at any time.

### 5.4 FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

Melbourne Royal may conduct further proceedings in relation to any matter concerning an Exhibitor, Exhibit, Agent or Owner or potential Exhibitor, Exhibit, Agent or Owner, and impose any suspension, fine,

disqualification, withdrawal or forfeiture of an award, handicap, reprimand, warning or any other penalty, irrespective of whether a Body has already imposed a penalty on the Exhibitor, Exhibit, Agent or Owner.

### 5.5 RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Melbourne Royal may enter into reciprocal arrangements with a Body in relation to any matter concerning an Exhibit, Exhibitor, Agent or Owner or potential Exhibit, Exhibitor, Agent or Owner.

### 5.6 MELBOURNE ROYAL MAY REMOVE EXHIBITOR

- a. Melbourne Royal may in its absolute discretion remove the Exhibitor, its Personnel or any other persons from the Showgrounds who:
  - i. do not comply with any rules or directions made by Melbourne Royal or its Personnel;
  - ii. commits any other breach of or non-observance of any of the other regulations contained herein.
- b. Melbourne Royal reserves the right in its direction to ban the Exhibitor, its Personnel or any other persons from entering future Shows and/or the Showgrounds generally.

- c. The Exhibitor will have no claim against Melbourne Royal for any refund, loss or compensation by the exercise of the rights of Melbourne Royal under this clause.

## 6 JUDGING

### 6.1 GENERAL

- a. Judges may transfer Exhibits into a more appropriate class if it is considered to have been entered in an incorrect class. Unskirted or insufficiently skirted Exhibits will be correctly skirted under the direction of the Fleece Committee.
- b. Exhibits that in the opinion of the Judges are overgrown, will be judged accordingly and potentially penalised by up to 20 points.
- c. Melbourne Royal reserves the right to draw a 200gram sample from each Exhibit for testing.
- d. All fleeces must have been shorn within 12 months proceeding the close of entries.

### 6.2 TESTING

- a. All Skirted and District fleeces will be tested for micron, staple length, strength and yield by the Australian Wool Testing Authority Ltd (AWTA).
- b. Test results will be used during the judging process.

### 6.3 JUDGING CRITERIA

- a. Exhibits will be judged on the following point systems in the relevant competition:

<b>Australasian and Black &amp; Coloured Lambs' Wool</b>	
Density	6 points
Length	6 points
Soundness	6 points
Character	10 points
Evenness	10 points
Trueness to type	10 points
Colour or bloom	16 points
Handle	16 points
Yield	20 points
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>100 points</b>

- b. Samples in the lambs' wool competition to contain no less than 450g of wool, and must be untipped and shorn from lambs, not hoggets or weaners.

### **Skirted, District, Black & Coloured Fleeces**

Sheep fleece judging will be based on the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers (NCWSB) scale of points. Judges will take account of the objective measurements.

Trueness to type	10 points
Uniformity of length	10 points
Soundness	10 points
Handle	10 points
Colour or bloom	10 points
Character and style	10 points
Evenness	10 points
Clean fleece weight	30 points
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>100 points</b>

#### **6.4 INTERFERENCE**

- a. The Exhibitor, any Agent of the Exhibitor or persons in charge of the Exhibit must not consult, influence or interfere with a Judge or attempt to consult, influence or interfere with a Judge or do any other thing which may influence or interfere with a Judge's freedom of choice or judgement unless it is expressly authorised by the Relevant Schedule or the Judge themselves.

#### **6.5 SUBSTITUTE JUDGE**

Melbourne Royal reserves the right to substitute a Judge.

#### **6.6 DECISIONS**

- a. Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Regulations, the decision of a Judge as to the merits of the Exhibit will be final. An Exhibitor may not protest a decision.

### **7 PRIZES**

- a. No Championship will be awarded if, in the opinion of the Chief Judge, no Exhibit warrants a Championship Award.
- b. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters.

### **8 DISTRICT FLEECE COMPETITION**

An Exhibit in the District Fleece Competition must have previously won a Championship at a District Agricultural Show.

### **9 VEHICLE PARKING**

- a. With the prior consent of Melbourne Royal, vehicles ('vehicle' which includes motor vehicle, truck, stock transport, trailer, and float), of an Exhibitor may enter the Showgrounds or any area under Melbourne Royal control.
- b. Parking for vehicles will be available and Exhibitors must apply for parking by completing the relevant section when entering, and forward the fee with the competition entry fee.
- c. There is to be no camping on the Showgrounds, or any area leased by Melbourne Royal under any circumstances.
- d. Any vehicle, located on the Melbourne Showgrounds, or any area leased by Melbourne Royal, shall be at the sole risk of the owner.
- e. Melbourne Royal accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage, including loss or damage caused by negligence of Melbourne Royal, its officers, employees, or agents to any vehicle, or the contents of any vehicle, located on Melbourne Royal's property on the any area leased by Melbourne Royal.
- f. Any vehicle entering or remaining on the Showgrounds, or any area under Melbourne Royal control, in contravention of this Regulation 9 or of any other parking rules or restrictions, may be removed from the Showgrounds, or any area under Melbourne Royal control, by Melbourne Royal and stored. Any costs incurred by Melbourne Royal pursuant to this Regulation must be paid by the Exhibitor.

### **10 CONSENT OF IMAGES**

Exhibitors, Owners and competitors agree to Melbourne Royal publishing or reproducing information and images associated with them and with their Exhibits at any time, in any medium, for any purpose. This includes live streaming of video, if utilized at the Show.

### **11 SURVEILLANCE**

Melbourne Royal operates surveillance cameras which are located in and around facilities requiring security monitoring for the safety and security of individuals and property. Please note that security camera monitoring is continuous and ongoing and it is deemed that a person, by entering the Showgrounds, consent to this photographing, filming or taping.

Melbourne Royal strictly complies with the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999*.

## 12 CANCELLATION OF THE SHOW

In the event that the Melbourne Royal Show is to be partially or fully cancelled for any reason whatsoever, the Exhibitor and/or owner of the Exhibit shall not pursue Melbourne Royal for the recovery of any loss or damages. It is acknowledged by the Exhibitor that the society has no duty to have a Show in any particular year and that this clause operates as a complete defense for the Event Organiser to any such action.

## 13 INDEMNITY

The Exhibitor indemnifies and holds harmless Melbourne Royal and all of its Representatives ('Representatives' meaning relevant employees including volunteers, agents, members, officers, directors, auditors, advisors, partners, consultants, contractors and related entities) from and against all actions, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities including without limitation, consequential loss and loss of profits (whether arising under statute, from negligence, personal injury, death, property damage or infringement of third party rights) for which Melbourne Royal or its Representatives is or may be or become liable in connection with the Exhibit, the Exhibitor or the relevant Event, including the Melbourne Royal Show. Melbourne Royal shall not be responsible for loss or damage to any Exhibit irrespective of the cause of such loss or damage.

## 14 INFORMATION HANDLING

Melbourne Royal is bound by the National Privacy Principles of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and other applicable laws governing privacy. Please refer to the privacy policy which can be found at [www.melbourneroyal.com.au/privacy](http://www.melbourneroyal.com.au/privacy)

### 14.1 COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a. Without limiting Melbourne Royal's privacy policy, Melbourne Royal may collect, hold and use personal information about Exhibitor, their family members, invitees or Agents.
- b. The types of information that may be collected include names and contact details, credit card details, qualification, results of the Exhibitor's entry into the relevant Event and any reprimand, fine, disqualification, withdrawal of an award or penalty imposed on the Exhibitor in connection with the entry of the Exhibit in the relevant Event. Information may also be collected from other Bodies relating to the Exhibitor's entry into events held by that Body including, without limitation, reprimands, fines, disqualifications, withdrawals of awards or penalties imposed.

- c. Personal information is collected for the purpose of administration of Events and the Show, as well as related purposes including, without limitation, promoting the Events and the Show, maintenance of records of information relevant to qualifications for future events, maintenance of health and safety records in relation to Event, applicable insurance cover for Events and making claims under Melbourne Royal's insurance for incidents involving an Exhibitor and occur during an Event.
- d. Personal information may also be used for the purpose of informing Exhibitors about other events and services. Melbourne Royal may send an Exhibitor publications and information about other events and services unless the Exhibitor indicated to Melbourne Royal that the Exhibitor does not want to receive such publications or information.

### 14.2 SHARING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a. Without limiting Melbourne Royal's privacy policy, Melbourne Royal may share information which has been collected under Regulation 14.1 with other organisations and service providers to assist in administering the Events and the Show, including co-sponsors of Events and health service providers, indemnity or insurance providers or other Bodies, or any entity that may subsequently administer the Event.
- b. Melbourne Royal may also publish winners details on its websites or publications or disclose information about an Exhibit and Exhibitor to the media for the purposes of publishing articles on the Exhibit/Exhibitor's participation in the Event, unless the Exhibitor has requested that the Exhibitor's personal information not be published or disclosed for these purposes.
- c. Melbourne Royal may also disclose information if otherwise required by law.

## 15 GOVERNING LAW

These Regulations are governed by the law of the State of Victoria, Australia.