

# Melbourne Royal Art, Craft and Cookery *Special Regulations 2026*

## 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).

**Article** means a particular item, piece or accessory.

**Assistant Chief Steward** means the person occupying or acting in the position of Assistant Chief Steward of a section.

**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;

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

**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.

**Committee** means a group of people appointed by Melbourne Royal to assist in organising an event or competition.

**Drug** has the meaning set out in the Relevant Schedule.

**Event** includes competition and class and without limitation includes any event listed in a Schedule. Event also includes the period of bump-in and bump-out for the Event and the period of the Event competition.

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

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

**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.

**Garment** means an article of clothing.

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

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

**Junior (including Schools)** means persons aged from 5 to 19 years inclusive at the commencement of the Show.

**Master** means an Exhibitor who has won a 1st prize in the Open Classes of that section at any Royal Show. Please state qualifying year and Show.

**Motor Vehicle** includes a truck, trailer, horse 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).

**Novice** means an exhibitor with no more than two years' participation in that section and who has not won a first prize in that section in the Art, Craft & Cookery Competition at the Melbourne Royal Show at any time. Must not work professionally in that craft, art form or technique.



*Open* means the competition is open to all.

*Outfit* means set of clothing.

*Regulations* means:

- Melbourne Royal General Regulations for All Competitions;
- the rules, regulations and conditions of entry set out in the Relevant Schedule; 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.

*Set* means a number of items belonging together.

*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.

## 1.2. INTERPRETATION

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

- The singular includes the plural and conversely.
- A gender includes all genders.
- If a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning.
- A reference to a person, corporation, trust, partnership, unincorporated body or other entity includes any of them.
- A reference to a Regulation is a reference to a Regulation of these Regulations.
- 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.
- 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 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- An Exhibit cannot be entered in more than one class.
- An Exhibit must have been made by one Exhibitor unless entered in a Group class.
- An Exhibit must have been completed after 1 October 2025.
- An exhibit must not be produced or created by a business, commercial enterprise, or collective.

### 2.2 TRANSFERS

- Exhibitors must ensure that Exhibits are entered in the correct class.
- On receipt of Exhibit tickets, thoroughly check and advise of any discrepancies immediately.
- Transfer of Exhibits will only be allowed after consultation with the Manager prior to judging.

### 2.3 FEES AND CHARGES

- Entry fees and Melbourne Royal membership subscriptions are exempt from GST.
- All other fees and charges include GST unless otherwise stated.
- Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that entries are not received.

## 3. EXHIBITS

### 3.1 OWNERSHIP OF EXHIBITS

- An Exhibit must be the bona fide work of the Exhibitor.
- On signing the Entry Form, it is declared that the Exhibitor has the legal right to present the work and content.
- All endeavours to obtain permissions must be made for any Exhibits of images depicting people. Exhibits may be withdrawn from display if permissions cannot be produced and objections are made.

### 3.2 STANDARD OF EXHIBITS

- Exhibits must not have been worn, used or marked, except in Schools & Youth Competition and Fashion and Design Classes where exhibits may have been worn at other exhibitions.
- Exhibitors may wash/rinse exhibits for presentation, that is, to remove any soiling that may have occurred in the making up of the exhibit. Judges may reject any exhibits they feel are too soiled for exhibition.
- Exhibits using electricity must be compliant with Australian Safety Standards.



### 3.3 DISPLAY ELIGIBILITY

- a. Exhibits that do not meet the criteria of each section or regulations as set out in this schedule will not be judged or displayed.
- b. Melbourne Royal reserves the right not to exhibit any works that are deemed to be unsafe or offensive to the general public.
- c. Exhibits containing QR codes will not be displayed.

### 3.4 FRAMING AND HANGING OF EXHIBITS

- a. All Exhibits that are to be hung must have suitable hanging devices that will take the weight of the Exhibit.
- b. No responsibility will be taken for any work that falls due to faulty attachments.
- c. Melbourne Royal reserves the right to not hang all images in the Pavilion Exhibition.
- d. Melbourne Royal may elect to digitise images as required to enable the display of images within the pavilion.

### 3.5 RETURN OF EXHIBITS

- a. If the Exhibitor elects to have their Exhibit returned via a postal service, the Exhibitor must provide Melbourne Royal with the required return details and pay the applicable return fees set by Melbourne Royal. Pre-purchased or self-supplied packaging will not be accepted.
- b. Melbourne Royal shall not be held liable for any damage, loss, theft, or delay of Exhibits returned to the Exhibitor via postal services. Once the Exhibit is handed over to the postal carrier or delivery service, the risk of loss or damage shall pass to the Exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to insure the Exhibit and to track the return shipment. Melbourne Royal will not be responsible for any claims arising from the shipping process, including but not limited to damage, loss, or delays.
- c. Food exhibits, including preserves, biscuits and fruit cakes, will not be returned by post. All such exhibits must be collected on the designated collection day. Any uncollected items will be disposed of at the end of that day.

## 4. CONDUCT OF EXHIBITORS

### 4.1 GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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 by Melbourne Royal.

- b. All penalties will be decided by Melbourne Royal's Executive General Manager of Agriculture or appointed representative.
- 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 & CONDUCT

- 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. violence;
  - ii. bullying;
  - iii. harassment;
  - iv. sexual harassment;
  - v. unlawful discrimination;
  - vi. victimization;
  - vii. any other form of unacceptable behaviour or conduct 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.

## **5. POWERS OF MELBOURNE ROYAL**

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

- a. Melbourne Royal may refuse to accept an Entry, an Exhibit or Exhibitor or any of them at its absolute discretion, at any time, and for any reason.

### **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/Class 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 or merge classes if less than four Exhibits are entered.
  - xi. make any other determinations or directions on any matter in relation to the conduct of the Event.
- 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**

- a. Melbourne Royal may recognise, act upon and enforce any penalty imposed by a Body on an Exhibit or Exhibitor at any time.
- b. Melbourne Royal may in its absolute discretion reject entries from Competitors or Exhibitors who, or whose Exhibits, are or have been subject to disqualification from any Royal or other Show or similar body.

### **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 Agent 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.
- b. Melbourne Royal reserves the right in its direction to ban the Exhibitor, its Agent 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, including loss of profit, by the exercise of the rights of Melbourne Royal under this Regulation 4.6.

## **6. JUDGING AND RESULTS**

### **6.1 TIMETABLE OF JUDGING**

Judging of Exhibits will take place prior to the commencement of the Show each year.

### **6.2 DECISIONS**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Regulations, the decision of a Judge as to the merits of the Exhibit and the Exhibitor or either of them will be final, and the Exhibitor may not protest or appeal the decision.

### **6.3 RESULTS**

Results will be available during and after the Show at [www.melbourneroyal.com.au/art-craft-cookery](http://www.melbourneroyal.com.au/art-craft-cookery)



## 7. PRIZES

### 7.1 GST

- a. By providing an ABN and indicating that you are GST registered, you are agreeing to receive a Recipient Created Tax Invoice for any prize money won.
- b. Incorrect information including lapsed ABNs will incur a \$20.00 handling fee.

### 7.2 PRIZE CARDS AND RIBBONS

- a. Rosettes will be awarded for the best Exhibit in each section and as set out under each section.
- b. First, second and third prize cards and ribbons and commended awards will be awarded at the discretion of the Judge.
- c. Equal places will not be awarded.
- d. If no first place is awarded, second and third places are withheld.
- e. Rosettes, where awarded, will be displayed with the awarded entry.
- f. Where awarded (and if available), prizes other than cash can be collected on the date shown in Catalogue.
- g. All prize money will be paid out via EFT only.

## 8. SALES

- a. Art, Craft and Photography in the Open Sections may be offered for sale. Exhibitors who wish to make their work (Exhibits) available for sale are required to enter the retail price of each Exhibit on the entry form and also provide EFT payment details.
- b. An additional \$20.00 handling fee at time of entry for administration and processing costs of the sale will be charged. A 35% royalty fee will also be charged for the sale of each Exhibit.
- c. If an Exhibitor has paid for return postage of an Exhibit which is subsequently sold during Show, the postage fee will be refunded to the Exhibitor.
- d. Sales of Exhibits are made by Melbourne Royal acting solely as agent for the Exhibitor, subject to the right of the Exhibitor to withdraw the Exhibit from sale up to 48 hours prior to the Show commencement. Melbourne Royal retains the right to withdraw an Exhibit from sale at any time. GST is applied in accordance with statutory guidelines.
- e. While Melbourne Royal endeavours to ensure that all Exhibits are the bona fide property of the Exhibitor, or held by the Exhibitor under written lease in existence at the time of entry, the purchaser acknowledges that Melbourne Royal has not made any representation as to the bona fide ownership of the Exhibit or that clear title to the Exhibit will pass to the purchaser on purchase of the Exhibit.

## 9. CONSENT OF IMAGES

- a. 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.
- b. Melbourne Royal may release an image of any work to the media for promotional purposes.

## 10. SURVEILLANCE

- a. Melbourne Royal operates surveillance cameras which are located in and around facilities requiring security monitoring for the safety and security of individuals and property.
- b. 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*.

## 11. CANCELLATION OF THE SHOW

- a. 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.
- b. It is acknowledged by the Exhibitor that Melbourne Royal has no duty to have a Show in any particular year and that this clause operates as a complete defence for Melbourne Royal to any such action.

## 12. INSURANCE

- a. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to take out and maintain insurance on their Exhibit.
- b. Melbourne Royal shall not be liable to take out a policy of insurance effectively protecting any Exhibitor or Exhibits against any claim.



## 13. INDEMNITY AND LIABILITY

### 13.1 INDEMNITY

- a. The Exhibitor indemnifies and keeps indemnified 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 liability in connection with the Exhibit, the Exhibitor or the relevant Event, including the Melbourne Royal Show.

### 13.2 LIABILITY

- c. Exhibits are brought and left on the Showgrounds by Exhibitors at their sole risk and responsibility.
- d. Melbourne Royal or any official judge, steward, officer or employee will not be liable in any way for any direct, indirect or consequential loss of an Exhibit, or the diminution in the value of an Exhibit by reason of the sale, delivery, disposal or other dealing with an Exhibit; any damage or injury occasioned to or by an Exhibit; and/or the negligence or any act or matter or thing done, permitted or omitted by Melbourne Royal; or any loss, damage or injury occasioned to or by an Exhibitor or person acting on his or her behalf.

## 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 which involve 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 13.1 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 (including first name, last name, school, student's name) on its websites, publications, catalogue, 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.