

# Texas 4-H Judging Contest General Rules & Guidelines

Updated : September 1, 2023  
Changes noted in RED

*These rules will apply to all judging contest conducted by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. All rules stated within this document will be adhered to by all participants. Please refer to the specific judging contest rules as well for information that may vary due to the nature of the contest.*

**Recommended equipment:** *All equipment is subject to review by the contest superintendent or assistants and subject to disqualification if determined they provide an unfair advantage to the contestant. Individual contest superintendents can modify allowed equipment and will notify contestants in advance of the contest.*

- Clipboard
- Plain file folder
- Blank paper or Steno Pad
- #2 pencil(s)
- Scan sheet or judging cards (**will be provided by contest coordinator**)

## **General Contest Rules**

1. A team shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of four (4) members in the same age division from the same county (unless individual contest rules specify differently). Team scores will be determined by the combined score of the three (3) highest scoring individual team members. The contestant with the lowest score will be designated as alternate, but will remain eligible to receive individual awards.

Note: A County can only have a maximum of 2 individual entries per age division. If there are 3 individuals from a county wanting to judge in the same age division, they must be declared a team entry.

2. Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices into the contest while judging, except those devices required for medical reasons (ie blood sugar monitors/apps). Conveying medical device needs to contest superintendents in advance is very helpful. This includes cell phones, tablets and other devices capable of transmitting information (ie Apple Watch or other smartphone style watch devices). It is recommended that all cell phones be left with a parent, coach or agent. Otherwise they must be kept in a contestant's pocket, always in the off position. **If a contestant is caught with a cell phone or other electronic device, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.**

3. The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no communication between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or assistants. **If a contestant is caught communicating with other contestants, the contestants and their teams may be disqualified.**

*The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.*

4. Display Group Assignment Label on upper portion of shirt, visible always. Do not place label on pants, clipboard, etc.
  - If a contestant is found outside of his/her properly assigned group, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.
  - Contestants should not wear clothing with monogrammed individual identification (Name or county) **while presenting Reasons**
5. Contestants will remain outside of the contest area until judging classes are in place, and they are asked to enter the area.
6. Coaches, agents, and parents are not allowed into the judging area once the contest begins, *unless allowed by the contest Superintendent*. Following the contest, coaches, agents, and parents may be permitted into the area for officials and allowed time to review the classes with contestants, if time permits.
7. Contestants should face away from the judging class until instructed by the contest coordinator or group leader that they may turn and face the judging class. **If a contestant does not cooperate with this rule, the contestant may be disqualified.**
8. Once time has been called and judging on all classes has been completed, contestants must immediately turn in their scan sheet / judging card to their Group Leader. **Any contestant failing to turn in their scantron immediately following the end of the contest, will result in no score.**
9. In the event of a tie, please refer to specific contest rules for the method of determining the winner.
10. **Scantron management is the responsibility of the contestant. Make sure not to damage the scantron in a manner that would prevent it to be scanned. Scan sheets that are abused will not be scored.**
11. **Contestants and coaches are required to verify that all details on the scantrons are filled out correctly. Team numbers will be assigned, and it's essential for contestants to accurately mark their team number, along with their name, for scoring purposes. If a team number is not accurately marked, the scantron will be disqualified.**