

The **Venice Farmers' Market (VFM)** is sponsored by the Venice Action Committee (VAC) to serve the local residents and visitors. The VAC is a nonprofit organization which consists of some 200 plus general members, a board of directors and an executive board of directors. VFM policies are made at the board level. The daily operation of the market is managed by James Murez, who is one of the executive board members. For the purposes of this document, Mr. Murez or any agent of his appointment will be referred to as the Manager.

The Producer is defined for this document as anyone accepted by the Manager to sell at the VFM who has proper proof that he/she is selling what he/she caught, grew, collected or raised. In addition, a family member or salaried employee selling for a Producer is also considered a Producer.

Employees shall be required to provide proof of employment at all times. No commission sales, produce brokers or resellers are allowed.

This market was established for the benefit of both producers and consumers. It provides producers with a direct outlet at which they can sell at prices normally higher than wholesale, and provides consumers with an opportunity to buy fresher food at prices normally lower than retail, thus benefiting both.

1. All local, state and federal laws shall be observed to their strictest degree. Any violation may be justification for immediate termination at the VFM.
2. The Manager has the right to issue verbal or written warnings or suspensions and/or impose other disciplinary action on participating Producers who violate any rules.
3. The VFM hours are 7AM to 11AM every Friday. No sales are permitted prior to or after these hours.
4. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly forbidden during the VFM. Anyone judged as being inebriated by the Manager shall be asked to leave the premises.
5. Foul language is strictly forbidden. Anyone judged using foul language shall be asked to leave the premises.
6. No smoking is allowed by a Producer within 10 feet of the selling area.
7. The benefit of the doubt will be given to the consumer. Should a dispute arise between consumer and Producer, the Producer will defer to the judgment of the Manager. Two or more disputes are grounds for ejection from the VFM.
8. Producers are admitted into the market based on the following considerations: consumer demand, product mix or competition at the VFM, and/or seniority on the waiting list.
9. At least 50% of each Producer's product must be of his/her own production. A Producer selling for another producer must give the Manager written authorization to do so. Preference is given to Producers who produce their own products over Producers who are selling another Producer's products.

10. Each Producer offering any certifiable item must have a current Certified Producer's Certificate from the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture. Producers of other items must provide the appropriate certificates and/or licenses, as required by city or state regulatory agencies and/or by the Manager. These certificates, ates and/or licenses must be conspicuously posted during the VFM. A copy must also be on file with the Manager. The absence of either is grounds for immediate ejection, disciplinary action or both.

11. Producers using the term "organic" must be California Certified Organic in order to state that their product is organic, and must post the proper Organic Certificate.

12. If Producers wish to use the terms "no sprays", "no chemicals", or any other similar terms, they must provide a brief written statement to the Manager concerning the techniques they use against insects, fungus, diseases and pests prior to using these statements at the VFM.

13. All products must be clearly labeled and prices posted in customer view.

14. All commodities are subject to inspection at any time. Prices must reflect quality; lower quality can be sold only at very low prices.

15. Only those items listed on the Producers weekly load sheet are considered approved for display or sale at the VFM. Approval must be obtained from the Manager no less than 72 hours in advance of the VFM in order for the Producer to sell the item(s).

16. All Producers' and their employees' vehicles other than those parked in their assigned space within the Market area shall be parked in the remote area of the parking lot.

17. Producers' vehicles, tables, and overhead shades must be maintained and used in a safe manner. Legs must be firmly locked into place and tables must have smooth edges and remain stable when loaded with product. Shades must be tied or weighted down.

18. Scales must be commercially approved, and display a current certification seal by the pertinent government agency. The Manager can request that a scale not be used should he/she deem it is not in correct operating condition.

19. Producers must accurately report all sales which occurred at or as a result of the VFM. A weekly load sheet is provided by the Manager for the purpose of reporting sales and fees. Fees are calculated as a percentage (as stated on the load sheet) of gross sales and must be paid to the Manager on the market day on which the sales occurred. The Manager may audit Producers' reporting at anytime.

20. All spaces at the VFM are reserved by the Manager prior to the day of the market. On occasion, the Manager may decide to rearrange the VFM and/or change assignments without prior notice. Any Producers who arrive at the VFM without a reserved space may be tuned away.

21. Producers shall notify the Manager before market day if they are not going to be at the market. In the case of an emergency, notification immediately after the market is required. Late arrivals up until 8AM will be subject to disciplinary action. After 8AM, Producers may be tuned away.

22. Food stamps are accepted at this market, and must be accepted by all Producers. All Producers shall receive from the Manager an instructional pamphlet describing the rules of the Food Stamp Program. All Producers must become familiar with these rules.

23. Producers are required to clean up their own selling space. Any trash which is generated in a Producer's area, and is not cleaned up at the close of the VFM, may be cause for disciplinary action.

24. Producers may not pack up or take down or leave prior to the end of the Market.

25. The VFM shall implement and enforce all rules and regulations in a fair and equitable manner.

26. Producers who do not comply with these market rules and all other applicable regulations and laws are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the VFM.

27. Acceptance of these rules by the Producer is agreed to upon receipt of this document. If any rule is deemed unlawful, all others will remain in effect.

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## Operating Rules

Revised March 2003