

## DEFINITION OF BACKYARD COOK TEAM

- A.) Any member of the team who has not entered in and competed in more than twelve (12) sanctioned "Master Series" BBQ competitions in the past and;
- B.) Any person who has been a member of a team who has not been awarded a Grand Champion or Reserve Champion status in any WCRF Sanctioned "Master Series" competition and;
- C.) Any member of the team who has competed in three (3) or less "Master Series" BBQ competitions within the current competition year.

If any member of the team has entered and competed in more than twelve (12) sanctioned "Master Series" BBQ competitions in the past, they are ineligible to participate in the Backyard BBQ Contest. Any person who was a member of a team that has competed in three (3) or less "Master Series" BBQ competitions within one (1) competition year may be considered a backyard cook and may declare or revert to such status. This includes the Chief Cook and/or Assistant Cooks. The only exclusion to this rule would be those judges cooking with a team to qualify for master judge status. Individuals who feel they have extenuating circumstances may appeal to the WCRF Sanctioning committee or their designee for reconsideration as a backyard cook. Those requests must be made in writing within 90 days of the competition in question. The purpose is to ensure a level playing field in the cooking competition. The Cook Team cannot have been compensated as a Professional BBQ Restaurant or Caterer.

## 2021 RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) The decision and interpretations of the Rules and Regulations are at the discretion of the WCRF Representatives at the contest. Their decisions and interpretations are final to the extent consistent with the rules.
- 2) Each team shall consist of a chief cook and as many assistants as the chief cook deems necessary. Chief cooks and/or assistant cooks may only cook for their designated team at the contest they are attending.
- 3) Each team will be assigned a cooking space. Pits, cookers, props, trailers, motor homes, vehicles, tents or any other equipment (including generators) shall not exceed the boundaries of the team's assigned cooking space. All seasoning and cooking of product shall be done within the assigned cooking space. Teams shall not share an assigned cooking space or cooking device.
- 4) Contestants shall provide all needed equipment, supplies and electricity, except as arranged for in advance. Contestants must adhere to all electrical, fire and other codes. Each contestant must have a fire extinguisher accessible.
- 5) It is the responsibility of the contestant to see that the

team's assigned cooking space is clean and orderly following the contest. All fires must be put out, pits filled (if allowed by contest organizer), and all equipment removed from site. It is imperative that clean-up be thorough. Any team's assigned cooking space left in disarray or with loose trash, other than at trash containers, may disqualify the team from future participation.

6) Fires shall be of wood, wood pellets or charcoal. Gas and electric heat sources shall not be permitted for cooking or holding. Propane or electric is permitted as fire starters, provided that the competition meat is not in/on the cooking device. Electrical accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are permitted. No open pits or holes are permitted, except at the election of the contest organizer. Fires shall not be built on the ground.

7) All competition meats shall be inspected by the Official Meat Inspector during the times established by the contest organizer but not prior to the day before judging. Once the competition meat has been inspected, it shall not leave the contest site. Cooking shall not begin until the competition meat has been inspected by the Official Meat Inspector. All competition meat shall start out raw. ONLY meat provided by the contest supplier may be used. Competition meat not meeting these qualifications shall be disqualified, not allowed to be turned in, not judged, and receives no score.

8) BBQ for the purposes of the rules is cooking the three Meat Categories (#10 below) on a device defined in (#6 above). Parboiling, Sous-vide, and/or deep-frying competition meat is not allowed. If any of the banned processes are discovered before the team turns in, the team will receive zeros. If discovered after turn-in, the team will receive ones (1) in all criteria for that entry.

9) Meat shall not be sculptured, branded or presented in a way to make it identifiable. Rosettes of meat slices are not allowed. Violations of this rule will be scored a one (1) on all criteria by all judges.

10) The Three (3) Meat Categories:

**CHICKEN:** Full chicken to be provided; half chicken must be presented for judging

**PORK RIBS:** Two racks to be provided; one must be presented for judging. Ribs shall include the bone. Country style ribs are prohibited.

11) Judging starts at Noon on Saturday. The three (3) WCRF categories will be judged in the following order:

**CHICKEN: NOON Sharp**

**PORK RIBS: Between 1:00 and 2:00 PM**

Any modification must be approved by the judges. The allowable turn-in time will be five (5) minutes before to five (5) minutes after the posted time with no tolerance. A late turn-in will not be accepted and will receive a zero (0) in all criteria.

12) Garnish is optional. If used, it is limited to chopped, sliced, shredded or whole leaves of fresh green lettuce, curly green kale, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley and/or cilantro. PROHIB-

ITED GARNISHES ARE lettuce cores, kale stems and other vegetation, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO endive, red tipped lettuce and radish. "PROHIBITED" garnish shall receive a penalty score of one (1) on Appearance.

13) Sauce is optional. If used, it shall be applied directly to the meat and not be pooled or puddled in the container. No side sauce containers will be permitted in the turn-in container. Chunky sauce will be allowed. Chunks are to be no larger than a fine dice, approximately 1/8 inch cubed. Sauce violations shall receive a penalty score of one (1) on Appearance.

14) Entries will be submitted in an approved, numbered container, provided by the contest organizer. The number must be on top of the container at turn-in.

15) The container shall not be marked in any way so as to make the container unique or identifiable. Aluminum foil, toothpicks, skewers, foreign material, and/or stuffing are prohibited in the container. Marked entries or containers with the above listed material will receive a one (1) in all criteria from all Judges and disqualified.

16) Each contestant must submit at least six (6) portions of meat in an approved container. Meat may be submitted chopped, pulled, sliced, or diced as the cook sees fit, as long as there is enough for six (6) portions. Ribs shall be submitted bone-in. Judges may not cut, slice, or shake apart to separate pieces. If there is not enough meat for each judge to sample, the shorted judge(s) will score a one (1) on all criteria, and the judges having samples will change the Appearance score to one (1) as a penalty.

17) The following cleanliness and safety rules will apply:

- a. No use of any tobacco products while handling meat.
- b. Cleanliness of the cook, assistant cooks, cooking device(s) and the team's assigned cooking space is required.
- c. Shirt and shoes are required to be worn.
- d. Sanitizing of work area should be implemented with the use of a bleach/water rinse (one cap/gallon of water). Each contestant will provide a separate container for washing, rinsing and sanitizing of utensils.
- e. First aid is not required to be provided by the contest, except at the election of the contest organizer.
- f. Prior to cooking, meat must be maintained at 40° F or less.
- g. After cooking, all meat: Must be held at 140° F or above OR Cooked meat shall be cooled as follows: Within 2 hours from 140° F to 70° F and Within 4 hours from 70° F to 41° F or less
- h. Meat that is cooked, properly cooled, and later reheated for hot holding and serving shall be reheated so that all parts of the food reach a temperature of at least 165° F for a minimum of 15 seconds.

18) There will be no refund of entry fees for any reason, except at the election of the contest organizer.



## CAUSES FOR PENALTY & EVICTION

These rules apply to the team, all of its members and any guests associated with the team. A cook team is responsible jointly and severally for its head cook, its team members and its guests. The following shall not be permitted:

- a. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication with a disturbance.
- b. Serving alcoholic beverages to the general public.
- c. Use of illegal controlled substances.
- d. Foul, abusive, or unacceptable language or any language causing a disturbance.
- e. Excessive noise, including but not limited to that generated from speakers, such as radios, CD players, TVs, public address systems or amplifying equipment.
- f. Fighting and/or disorderly conduct.
- g. Theft, dishonesty, cheating, use of prohibited meats, or any act involving moral turpitude.
- h. Use of gas or other auxiliary heat sources inside cooking device.
- i. Violation of any of the Cook's Rules above, save and except #9 – 13.

Excessive or continued complaints from teams on any of the above rule infractions shall be considered grounds for immediate disqualification from the contest by WCRF Representatives, Organizers and/or Security. In addition, any violation of the above rules shall be reported to the WCRF Directors who may in addition to the above disqualification impose additional penalties upon the team, the head cook, and its members including but not limited to disqualification from competing in WCRF events for a period of time not to exceed five years. All complaints of disturbance shall be reported to the Board of Directors.

**CLARIFICATION:** If a team does not turn in a product (OR) is disqualified and not allowed to turn in (OR) is late for turn in, that team's category is not accepted, not judged, and receives no score. If a product is turned in and then penalized or disqualified for any reason, such as no bone in ribs, etc., it will be judged and will receive a one (1) or ones (1s) in all criteria depending on the rule violation(s).

## JUDGING PROCEDURES

Sanctioning allows for blind judging only. Entries will be submitted in an approved WCRF numbered container provided by the contest organizer. The container may be re-numbered by the WCRF Contest Rep or authorized personnel before being presented to the judges.

- 1) Judges may not fraternize with teams on turn-in day until conclusion of judging.
- 2) Judging will be done by a team of four (4) designated persons, who are at least 16 years of age, and only at the judging table. Only Judges, Contest Reps and necessary support staff are allowed in judging area during the judging process. No other activities are permitted in the judging area during judging process.
- 3) Each judge will first score all the samples for appearance of the meat. The turn-in containers will then be passed around the table and each judge will place a sample from each of the containers in the appropriate spot on the judging plate. Judges shall not lick their fingers while taking these samples; paper towels, non-scented wipes or damp washcloths will be provided. The judge will then score each individual entry for taste and tenderness before moving on to the next entry.
- 4) The scoring system is from 9 to 2, all whole numbers between two and nine may be used to score an entry. 9 excellent, 8 very good, 7 above average, 6 average, 5 below average, 4 poor, 3 bad, and 2 inedible.
- 5) A score of one (1) is a penalty or disqualification and requires approval by a Contest Rep. Grounds for penalty/disqualification: All judges will give a one (1) in Appearance for prohibited garnish, pooled sauce or less than 6 samples of meat. All judges will give a one (1) in all criteria for sculptured meat, a marked turn-in container, foreign object in the container, incorrect meat. All judges not receiving a sample will give a one (1) in all criteria.
- 6) The weighting factors for the point system are: Appearance - .5600, Taste – 2.2972, Tenderness - 1.1428.
- 7) The low score will be thrown out. Results will be tallied. If there is a tie in one of the categories, it will be broken as follows: The scores will be compared (counting all but the lowest) for the highest cumulative scores in taste, then tenderness, then appearance. If still tied, then the low score, which was thrown out, will be compared and the higher of the low scores will break the tie. If still tied, then a coin toss will be used. 7a.) In the event of lost, destroyed or missing score cards, the remaining score cards will be averaged in each category and those averages shall be used as the missing scores on replacement score cards. After the missing scores have been tallied, the normal procedure will be followed for dropping the low score. These correct scores will be the official scores for any and all WCRF purposes.
- 8) Total points per entry determines the champion within each category.
- 9) Cumulative points for both categories will determine the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion.



## 2021 Backyard BBQ Contest Official Rules, Regulations & Judging Procedures

The following rules, regulations and judging procedures will be used at all Wayne County RibFest Sanctioned Backyard BBQ Contests, effective January 1, 2021.

Wayne County RibFest (WCRF)  
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### CREED

*Rules are designed to be fair and equal to all cooks. Integrity of the Contestants, Judges, WCRF Contest Representatives and Organizers is essential.*