

IBCA RULES & REGULATIONS

The purpose of the **IBCA** as stated in Article II of the **IBCA** By-Laws “to develop and bolster equitable competitive barbecue cooking internationally.” The entire concept of our organization is to standardize the cook-offs internationally. Referring to the introduction paragraph “Rules, why have them,” it states that we feel when **IBCA** rules, procedures, policies and guidelines are followed, that it provides the best on any given day will be recognized. The fifteen (15) rules set by **IBCA** are designed to be utilized in conjunction with the stated cook-off and judging procedures, policies, and guidelines.

1. **COOKED ON SITE** — All meats will be cooked on-site. The preparation and completion of any and all meats in competition is within the confines of the cook-off site and during the time limits designated by the promoter. **IBCA** recommends that competition meat be subject to inspection at cook-offs in which substantial prize money and/or awards are awarded.
2. **SANITATION** — Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by judging committee. Infractions identified by the judging committee shall be immediately corrected or the cook will be subject to disqualification.
3. **ENTRIES PER PIT** — **IBCA** recognizes only one entry (one chief cook) will cook on a given pit. It will be the responsibility of the promoter to monitor entries. Notwithstanding, multiple entries in the same category by the same cook and multiple entries from the same piece of meat **shall not** be allowed.

With the exception of Junior or Kid’s Cook-off’s, contestants must be 18 years of age to participate for cash prizes.

4. **BBO PITS** — the Promoter will be responsible to address the type or types of pits allowed at the cook-off

PIT - Any commercial or homemade, trailered or untrailered, pit or smoker normally used for competitive barbeque. A BBQ Pit may include gas or electricity for starting the combustion of wood or wood products but **NOT** to complete cooking.

BYC (Backyard Cooker) — any cooking device by design or nature that is inherently portable and by design is intended for recreational cooking.

5. **OPEN FIRES** — **IBCA** further recognizes that open fire, ground pits are used in some areas. It is in the interest of safety, a barrier shall be placed around said open fire pit.

A fire extinguisher shall be readily available.

6. **CATEGORIES**— Cook-off promoters shall advise contestants in advance of applicable meat categories and/or cuts of meats and/or types of cookers.

The following categories are recommended by the IBCA:

- **Beef Brisket**
 - **Pork Spare Ribs**
 - **Chicken** — one half (1/2) fully jointed domestic chicken that includes a breast, wing, thigh, and drumstick. **(NO Cornish Game Hens)**
 - **Pork** — Butt and/or Shoulder
 - **Open** — Meats other than those listed above. This category may include, but not limited to goat, mutton, fish, crustacean, wild game, or wild fowl. All Open categories must be cooked on site on BBQ pit or grill.
 - **Dessert** — This should be a separate category and the promoter should specify if it should be cooked on site, on the pit, or can be cooked at home to be entered.
 - **Beans** — Dry Pinto Beans cooked on site * nothing larger than the bean to be put into the turn-in cup.
7. **DOUBLE NUMBER SYSTEM** - **IBCA** requires that the secret, double number system be used. This system assures a fair competition and is a fundamental tenet of the **IBCA**. The system requires that two tickets bearing the same number be utilized, one firmly attached to the top of the judging tray in a manner which hides the number and the other ticket easily removed by the head cook for retention after signing the Head Cook’s name.

Winning numbers will not be revealed until time to announce each place in each category. At that time the secret numbers attached to the tray/cup will be removed and announced.

IBCA RULES & REGULATIONS, Continued.

8. **JUDGING TRAYS** — IBCA recommends the use of a Styrofoam tray with hinged lid and without dividers or the best readily available judging container which is approximately 8 inches square on the bottom half. (i.e. Dart 95HT1 or Genpak 200) A single sheet of aluminum foil should be supplied in each tray (i.e. Reynolds 710 foil sheets 9" x 10"). All judging containers shall be clean and free of any markings. Marked containers may be disqualified at the Head Judge's discretion. Cooks are responsible for insuring that the containers they receive remain clean and undamaged.
9. **JUDGING TRAY CONTENTS** - IBCA requires that the promoter and/or Head Judge advise all cooks of the exact quantities and cuts of meat that will be placed in the judging trays. This will normally be accomplished at the cook's meeting. The Head Judge or designated representative will inspect all trays at the time of turn-in in order to assure compliance with the turn-in criteria. All garnishes and condiments are prohibited, as they do not reflect the true quality of the cooked meat.

Meats may be cooked with sauces **and/or other liquids**, but once the cooking is complete, **sauces and/or liquids cannot be added. NO PUDDLING IN BOTTOM OF TRAY.**

Recommended amounts are as follows:

- a. Brisket: seven (7) full slices approximately 1/4" to 3/8" thick
- b. Pork Spare Ribs: seven (7) individual cut ribs (bone-in)
- c. Chicken: 1/2 fully jointed chicken (to include breast, wing, thigh, and drumstick.
(NO Cornish Game Hens))
- d. Pork: Pulled, sliced, or chopped (All trays will be turned in the same, either pulled, sliced, or chopped as directed by Promoter/Head Judge.)

If an event has 60+ teams, it is recommended that two (2) 1/2 chickens be submitted for judging and that the brisket and pork spare rib quantities be adjusted according.

10. **TURN-IN TIME** — Turn-in times for each category shall be pre-set. Once this time is set and/or announced no changes will be made. A turn-in window often (10) minutes before and after the set turn-in time will be recognized. Judging trays received after that time will not be accepted for judging.
11. **TERMS FOR DISQUALIFICATION** – After the tray has been turned in, any tray found to be in violation of the IBCA rules, will be disqualified at the discretion of the "Head Judge".
12. **JUDGES** — IBCA recommends that a minimum of five (5) judges per table be utilized during the initial judging. Subsequent levels of judging should utilize a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of nine (9) judges per table. **Head Cooks** are prohibited to participate as judges. (No Smoking in the Judges Area)
13. **JUDGING QUANTITY** — Judges will assign a score from 1 to 10 for each tray sampled. A maximum of twenty (20) trays or containers should be assigned to each judging table. Judges should not be required to sample and judge in excess of this number during any event. It is recommended that a predetermined number of top results from each preliminary judging table be sent on to the subsequent levels of judging.
14. **ANNOUNCING WINNERS** — IBCA recommends that announcement of winners be based on the number of competitors in each category. (Example: Cook-off with ten (10) or more entries announce the top ten (10) plus final table (numbers only). It is recommended that more than one person verify the ticket numbers.
- If the number of entries is less than ten (10) announce all places. In the interest of recognizing winners announce these places regardless of prizes or trophies being awarded.
15. **PRIZES** — IBCA states that a Grand Champion be named at every cook-off. In the event of a tie for Grand Champion, brisket will be the first tiebreaker, followed by ribs, then chicken, and then any other category. The promoter must advertise any changes to the tiebreaker decision in advance.