

# The Butcher's Smoke & Flames BBQ Cookoff



## OFFICIAL BBQ COOKOFF RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Event Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026**

**Event Time: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

**Event Location: Vinemont Sports Complex  
266 Park Drive, Cullman, AL 35058**

**Hosted By: The Butcher Meat Co.**

**Competitor Space Size: 20' x 20'**

**Registration Deadline: September 1st, 2026**

## GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

*(Applies to all competition categories unless otherwise stated)*

### 1. Sanctioning & Authority

- This event is KCBS sanctioned.
- All teams, cooks, and representatives agree to abide by KCBS rules and all additional event-specific rules outlined in this packet.
- The Contest Representative and Event Organizer's decisions are final.

### 2. Meat Inspection

- All meat must be raw and uncooked at the time of inspection.
- Meat may not be seasoned, marinated, injected, brined, or altered prior to inspection.
- Meat must be stored at 40°F or below until cooked.
- Failure to pass meat inspection may result in disqualification.

### 3. Cooking Methods & Heat Sources

- All competition meat must be cooked on-site at the event.
- Approved heat sources:
  - Wood
  - Charcoal
  - Pellets
- Gas or electric heat sources are NOT permitted for cooking or holding meat.

- Electric devices may be used only for fire starting, prior to meat being placed on the cooker.
- All food must be cooked in a sanitary and safe manner.

#### 4. Food Safety & Sanitation

- Teams must follow basic food safety standards at all times.
- Raw meat must be kept separate from cooked meat.
- No tobacco use while handling food.
- Each team must have:
  - A fire extinguisher located near cooking equipment
  - A clean work area
- Health Department and Event Officials reserve the right to inspect any cook site at any time.

#### 5. Turn-In Windows

- All turn-ins have a 10-minute window:
  - 5 minutes before to 5 minutes after the posted turn-in time.
- Entries submitted outside the turn-in window will not be accepted and will receive a score of zero.
- Teams are responsible for knowing and meeting all posted turn-in times.

#### 6. Turn-In Containers

- All entries must be submitted in approved, numbered containers supplied by the event.
- The container must close completely.
- No markings, writing, logos, or identifying characteristics are permitted on or inside the container.

#### 7. Portions

- Each entry must contain a minimum of six (6) judge portions.
- Insufficient portions may result in scoring penalties or disqualification.

#### 8. What May Be in the Turn-In Box

- Only the meat for that category may be included.
- No foreign objects are allowed (toothpicks, skewers, foil, cups, flags, etc.).
- Entries may not be sculpted, branded, or arranged in a way that identifies the team.

#### 9. Garnish

- Garnish is optional.
- If used, garnish must be limited to:
  - Green leaf lettuce
  - Curly parsley
  - Flat-leaf parsley
  - Curly green kale

- Cilantro
- Garnish may be chopped, sliced, shredded, or whole.
- Illegal garnish will result in an appearance penalty.

## 10. Sauce

- Sauce is optional.
- Sauce may be applied directly to the meat.
- No pooled or puddled sauce is allowed.
- No side cups or containers of sauce are permitted.
- Chunky sauce is allowed only if chunks are finely diced.

## 11. Judging

- All entries are judged on:
  - Appearance
  - Taste
  - Tenderness / Texture
- Judges may not slice, cut, or separate meat to create portions.
- Scoring will follow KCBS standards unless otherwise specified for ancillary categories.

## 12. Conduct & Sportsmanship

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- Teams may not interfere with judges, reps, or other teams.
- Teams may not attempt to identify their entries to judges.
- Violations may result in penalties or disqualification.

## 13. People's Choice / Sampling (if applicable)

- Sampling rules, quantities, and time windows will be outlined separately.
- Not all teams may be required to participate in People's Choice unless specified.
- Teams participating must comply with all sampling procedures.

## 14. Liability

- Teams cook and participate at their own risk.
- The event, organizers, sponsors, and sanctioning body are not responsible for injury, loss, or damage to people or property.

# CHICKEN — OFFICIAL CATEGORY RULES

*(KCBS Judged Category)*

## 1. Meat Definition

Chicken includes any part of the chicken, including Cornish Game Hen and Kosher Chicken.

All chicken must be raw and uncooked at meat inspection.

Chicken must be prepared and cooked on-site during the event.

## 2. Portions

A minimum of six (6) individual judge portions must be provided.

Portions may consist of thighs, legs, wings, breast portions, or any combination thereof.

## 3. Category-Specific Restrictions

- Only chicken meat may be submitted in the Chicken category.
- Entries must not be sculpted, shaped, or arranged in a manner that identifies the team.
- Judges may not cut, slice, or separate chicken to create portions.

# RIBS — OFFICIAL CATEGORY RULES

*(KCBS Judged Category)*

## 1. Meat Definition

Ribs must be pork ribs cooked on the bone.

Accepted rib types include pork spare ribs and pork loin back ribs.

Country-style ribs are prohibited.

## 2. Portions

A minimum of six (6) individual judge portions must be provided.

Each portion must contain bone-in rib meat suitable for judging.

## 3. Category-Specific Restrictions

- Ribs must be turned in with the bone intact.
- Rib entries must be presented so judges can remove portions without cutting or separating ribs.
- Only pork ribs may be submitted in this category.
- Entries must not be sculpted, shaped, or arranged in a manner that identifies the team.

# **BOSTON BUTT — OFFICIAL CATEGORY RULES**

*(KCBS Judged Category – Boston Butt Only)*

## **1. Meat Definition**

Meat for this category must be pork Boston Butt or Boston Roast.

Whole shoulders, picnic hams, collars, or other pork cuts are not permitted.

All pork must be raw and uncooked at meat inspection and prepared on-site during the event.

## **2. Portions**

A minimum of six (6) individual judge portions must be provided.

Portions may include sliced, pulled, chopped, or chunked pork, or any combination thereof.

## **3. Category-Specific Restrictions**

- Only pork Boston Butt/Boston Roast may be submitted in this category.
- Entries may include multiple textures (sliced, pulled, chopped) within the same box.
- Pork entries must not be sculpted, shaped, or arranged in a manner that identifies the team.
- Judges may not cut, slice, or separate meat to create portions.

# **WINGS — OFFICIAL CATEGORY RULES**

*(People's Choice Category)*

## **1. Meat Definition**

Meat for this category must be chicken wings.

## **2. Portions & Sampling**

- Only 150 People’s Choice tickets will be sold.
- The Butcher Meat Co. will provide each participating team with 150 chicken wings, plus 10 additional wings for accidents or loss (total of 160 wings per team).
- Wings will be distributed one wing per People’s Choice ticket.
- Sampling will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or until sold out.
- Teams are responsible for cooking and serving all wings provided.

### 3. Category-Specific Restrictions

- Only chicken wings provided for the People’s Choice category may be used.
- Wings may be sauced, dry-rubbed, or prepared using any flavor profile.
- Wings must be cooked on-site and served during the official sampling window.
- No identifying team names, signage, or markings may be used in the serving process.

## DESSERT — OFFICIAL CATEGORY RULES

*(Ancillary Judged Category)*

### 1. Dessert Definition

Dessert must be sweet in nature and may include baked, chilled, frozen, or smoked items.  
Dessert must be prepared by the team during the event.

### 2. Portions

A minimum of six (6) individual judge portions must be provided.  
Desserts must be pre-portioned for judging.

### 3. Category-Specific Restrictions

- Only dessert items may be submitted in this category.
- Desserts must not be sculpted, shaped, or presented in a manner that identifies the team.
- Judges may not cut, slice, or portion desserts.
- No identifying marks, names, or logos may be used.

## Final Authority & Amendments

The Event Organizer and KCBS Contest Representative reserve the right to interpret, enforce, and amend these rules as necessary to ensure a fair and safe competition. All decisions by the Contest Representative and Event Organizer are final. By participating in this event, teams acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with all rules and regulations outlined in this packet.