



# **Central Texas Barbecue Roundup**

## **Competitor Handbook**

### **All You Need To Know**

This handbook provides competitors with the essential information needed to participate in the Central Texas Barbecue Roundup. It summarizes event procedures, expectations, and important rules so teams can focus on cooking great barbecue and enjoying the competition.

Competitors must also comply with the official rules contained in the following documents, which are incorporated as part of this handbook:

- Jackpot Competition Rules
- People's Choice Competition Rules
- International Barbeque Cookers Association (IBCA) Rules

### **Event Overview**

March 20-21, 2026  
Central Texas Barbecue Roundup  
Cadence Bank Center  
Belton, Texas

The CTBR is an IBCA sanctioned cook-off featuring:

- Official IBCA Barbecue Competition
- Friday Jackpot Competitions
- Saturday People's Choice Competition
- Live music, car show, cornhole, animal adoption event, vendors, and public activities



Competitors are encouraged to engage with the public and represent the spirit of barbecue competition with professionalism and sportsmanship.

## **Arrival and Move In**

Thursday move-in is not permitted. The venue charges a separate operational fee of \$2200 for Thursday access which prevents team access prior to Friday morning.

### **Friday Move In**

Competitor check-in begins at 9:00 AM Friday. Teams may begin staging equipment, setting up cook areas, and preparing for the competition once they are checked in.

A site map is available at the Venue Layout and Site Map tab of the CTBR website.

## **Competitor Check In**

When teams arrive they will receive a competitor packet containing:

- IBCA tray pickup receipt (blank) that must accompany them to the tray pickup
- Numbered team paddle which also serves as their People's Choice identification paddle
- Jackpot containers
- Event information and materials

The numbered paddle will correspond with the team's walk song number and the number used for People's Choice judging.

## **Alcohol Policy**

Alcohol may be brought onto the competition grounds by competitors.

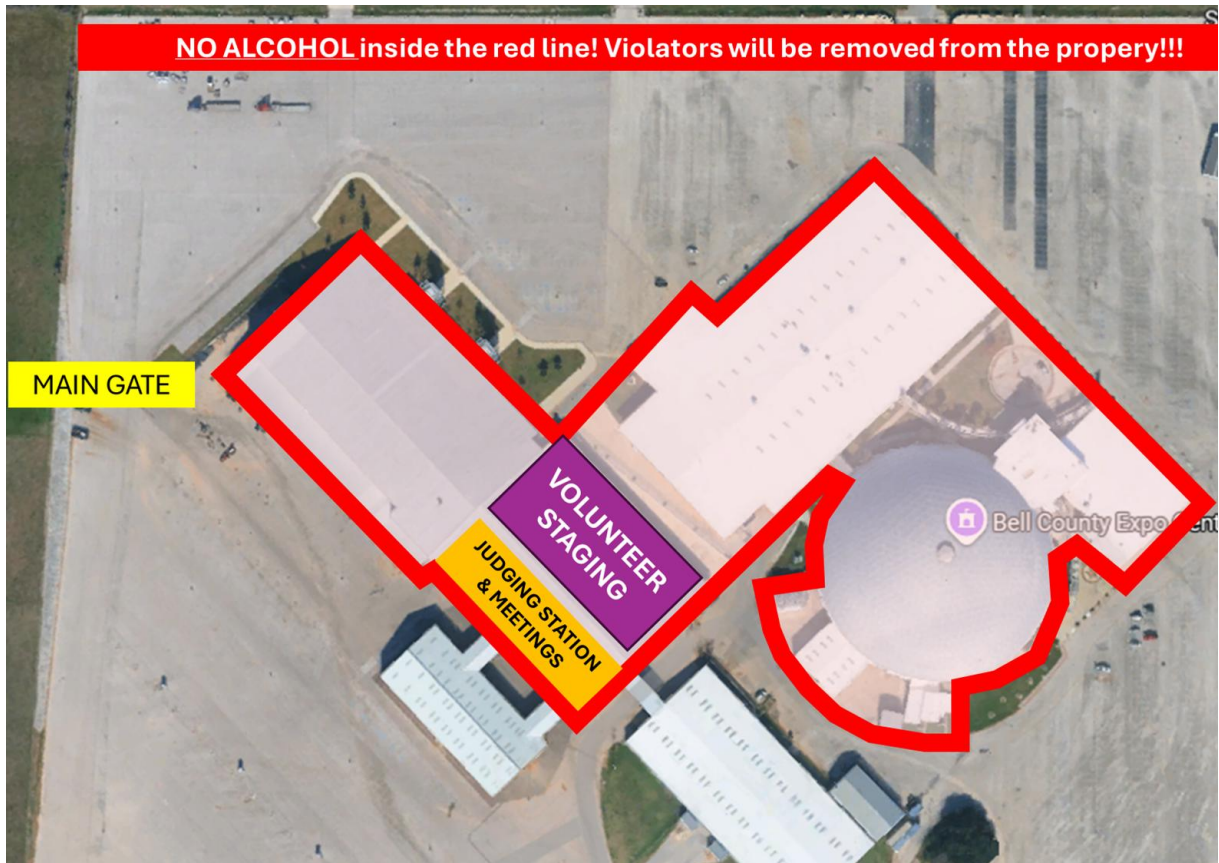
Competitors may provide alcohol to their personal guests but may not distribute alcohol to members of the attending public who are not their invited guests.



Alcohol is strictly prohibited inside the judging building and inside the animal adoption event building or at any point beyond the red line in the below image. This restriction is required under the venue's liquor license.

Anyone violating the Alcohol rule may be trespassed from the property by the venue operator.

Public drunkenness or poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.





## **Prize Pot and Payout Information**

The competition payout reached full activation at 82 teams. The event originally planned for 100 teams.

Because some teams doubled up cook spots with friends, registration remains open until remaining cook spots are filled.

To increase fairness and reward participation, the event has implemented a prize pot multiplier.

For every team above 100 teams registered, the prize pool increases by \$278.39 per additional team.

The current payout totals and multiplier can be viewed on the Payout tab of the website.

## **Safety Requirements**

### **Fire Safety**

- Fires must comply with local fire regulations.
- A fire extinguisher is required at every cook spot where a flame is present.
- Safety inspections will be conducted and teams must present their fire extinguisher upon request.
- Ground fires are not permitted.

### **Lighting**

- The venue will provide lighting during Friday and Saturday evening hours.

### **Firearms**

There are no restrictions on lawful concealed carry within the leased competition grounds. All competitors must follow Texas law and handle firearms responsibly.



## Safety Check by Event Staff

To help ensure a safe environment for competitors, guests, and venue staff, CTBR personnel will conduct brief walk-through safety checks throughout the event.

These checks are not intended to be burdensome. They simply confirm that basic safety practices are in place around cooking areas and equipment.

Staff will generally look for the following common-sense safety items.

- A fire extinguisher available at each cook site where a flame or heat source is present
- Cooking equipment positioned safely and not blocking aisles or walkways
- Electrical cords secured and not creating trip hazards in public areas
- Cooking fires contained within smokers, pits, or approved cooking devices
- No ground fires or open fire pits directly on the ground
- Propane cylinders secured in an upright position when in use and not near ignition or heat source
- Hot surfaces and cooking areas reasonably controlled around the public
- Walkways and neighboring areas kept reasonably clear of trash or debris
- General housekeeping maintained around the cook area

If staff notice a potential safety concern, they will simply ask the team to correct the issue so the event can continue safely for everyone.

These checks are quick and intended to support a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants.

## Friday Schedule

Friday is primarily a preparation and ancillary competition day.

### **9:00 AM**

Competitor check-in and gate opens.



### **All Day**

Teams stage equipment and prepare as needed.

### **IBCA Tray Pick Up**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the judge tent.

### **Jackpot Competitions**

Entry Fee: \$25 per category

Dessert: 3:45 – 4:00 PM

Chef's Choice: 4:45 – 5:00 PM

Beans: 5:35 – 5:50 PM

Entry Fee: \$25 per category.

Entries must be turned in within the official window. Containers will be provided to competitors at check-in.

Judging will be blind and scored on appearance, aroma, and taste/texture..

### **Cooks Meeting**

6:00 PM at the Judge Tent (Friday)

Teams are welcome to remain on site overnight and camp at their cook spots.

Showers are available for competitors near the judging station.

## **Saturday Schedule**

### **Additional Tray Pickup**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM at Judge Tent

### **Public Gates Open**

11:00 AM



### **People's Choice Competition**

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### **Official IBCA Turn In Times**

Chicken

Standard Turn-In: 12:00 PM

Window: 11:50 AM – 12:10 PM

Pork Spareribs

Standard Turn-In: 1:30 PM

Window: 1:20 PM – 1:40 PM

Brisket

Standard Turn-In: 3:00 PM

Window: 2:50 PM – 3:10 PM

All entries must follow IBCA tray requirements and rules.

Late trays cannot be accepted once the turn-in window closes.

Turn-in times and meat requirements follow IBCA competition rules and are communicated in the official IBCA flyer and rules documentation located at [CTBR.net](http://CTBR.net) and at the IBCA website.

### **People's Choice Competition**

The People's Choice Competition allows the attending public to taste and judge dishes prepared by competing teams.

Entry Fee: \$25 per team

Teams may prepare any consumable dish that is safe for public consumption. Alcohol may



not be used as an ingredient.

Teams should plan to prepare approximately 200 to 250 small sample portions.

Judging will be completed by members of the public using a digital scoring form. Each entry will be evaluated on appearance, aroma, and taste/texture.

## **Awards Ceremony Process**

The awards ceremony will follow the standard IBCA award format and will take place on the main stage following completion of judging.

Competitors are encouraged to gather near the stage prior to the ceremony so winners can quickly come forward when their number is called. Teams should stand in the area designated near the stage so they can easily hear the announcements and move quickly when called.

Awards will be announced in the following order.

- IBCA Chicken
- IBCA Pork Spareribs
- IBCA Brisket
- Friday Jackpot Competition Winners
- People's Choice Winner
- Special Awards (if applicable)
- Overall Top 15
- Reserve Grand Champion
- Grand Champion

For each IBCA category, placements are announced beginning with 15th place and continuing up to 1st place.



## **Ticket Verification**

IBCA uses a double-number ticket system to ensure fairness and maintain blind judging.

When your ticket number is called, raise your numbered paddle as you make your way to the stage. The DJ will play the walk song associated with your paddle number.

Bring your matching ticket or master ticket receipt to the stage for verification. Event officials will verify the ticket number before the award is presented.

If the original ticket cannot be produced, the placement cannot be claimed.

Competitors should keep their tickets secure throughout the competition.

Teams should also keep their tickets readily accessible during the awards ceremony to help the verification process move smoothly.

## **Stage Recognition**

When receiving an award, the head cook or a team representative should come to the stage.

Please move promptly when your number is called so the awards ceremony can stay on schedule for all competitors.

Teams will be given a brief moment to take photos and acknowledge sponsors if desired. To keep the ceremony moving efficiently, please keep remarks short.

Official event photos will be taken for category winners, overall placements, and champions.



## **Claiming Awards**

Winning teams should proceed to the stage promptly when their number is called. If a team does not immediately respond, additional numbers may be called to keep the ceremony moving.

Teams should remain near the stage until the ceremony is complete in case their number is announced.

## **Garbage and Site Cleanliness**

Competitors are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their cook space.

Each team must maintain:

- Their cook spot
- The aisle halfway across toward the opposing cook spots

Our sponsor, Waste Management will provide:

- 50 Garbage stations with bags
- 50 Two-wheel garbage carts
- 5 Roll-off dumpsters located around the venue

Before leaving the venue, teams must clean their cook spot and the immediate area surrounding their space.

Teams leaving their spot clean will qualify for a discounted first right of refusal for entry in next year's event.

## **Event Exit and Departure**

Teams may leave the venue after the awards ceremony as long as the driver of the vehicle is sober.



Teams may also remain and camp Saturday evening.

All teams must exit the venue by Sunday at 12:00 PM.

## **Competitor Conduct**

Competitors represent the spirit of barbecue competition and are expected to conduct themselves professionally.

The following behavior will not be tolerated:

- Public intoxication
- Poor sportsmanship
- Harassment or disruptive conduct
- Violation of safety rules
- Violation of venue policies

Event officials reserve the right to remove individuals or teams who fail to comply with event rules.

## **Final Note to Competitors**

The Central Texas Barbecue Roundup exists because of the pitmasters who bring their craft, passion, and camaraderie to the event.

We deeply appreciate the teams who are helping build this event in its first year and who are stepping forward to create something special for the barbecue community and the public.

Thank you for being part of the Central Texas Barbecue Roundup.