

# Contestant Rules and Regulations

## RED CHILI

Traditional *Red Chili* is defined by the International Chili Society as any kind of meat or combination of meats, cooked with red chili peppers, various other spices, and other ingredients. No ingredient may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the commencement of the official cook-off. The only exceptions are canned or bottled tomatoes, tomato sauce, peppers, pepper sauce, beverages, broth and grinding or mixing of spices. Meat may be treated, pre-cut or ground. Meat may not be precooked. All other ingredients must be chopped or prepared during the preparation period.

Only USDA meat may be used. Proof of this should be available upon request.

The cooking period will be a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 4 hours. The exact starting and ending time of the cooking period is to be announced by each local sponsoring organization. Cooking during the entire cooking period is at the sole discretion of the contestant.

A representative of the sponsoring organization shall conduct a contestants meeting, at which time final instructions are to be given and questions answered, no later than one (1) hour prior to designated starting time of the cook-off.

Contestants are responsible for supplying all of their own cooking utensils, pans, pots etc.

The sponsors of the cook-off will provide an area for each contestant. This includes cook tops, propane cookers etc.

Contestants are responsible for their own naming and decorating of their station..

Judging will be by the public in all categories as "People's Choice". They will vote for the chili they like best based on the following major considerations: Good flavor, texture of the meat, consistency, blend of spices, aroma, and color.

The decisions of the people shall be final.

## SALSA

*Salsa*: There are no rules as to the ingredients or how to prepare your salsa. It may be prepared at home and brought to the site that day.

The person whose name appears on the Salsa Contestant Application must be present at the cook-off and turn in the Salsa themselves. Absentee contestants will not be allowed.

Salsa is judged by the same procedures as *Red Chili*.

## **YOUTH**

Youth division will be ages 16 and under. This division will also be “People’s Choice” under the same rules and regulations as the Red Chili class. Each Youth contestant should have an accompanying adult.

## **JUDGING PROCEDURES**

It is the responsibility of the scorekeeper to insure that the judging area is properly set up and all materials including staff available to proceed with judging.

Judging will be done by the general public (“People’s Choice”).

There shall be one scorekeepers table and score box.

Taster cups and spoons shall be provided.

Ballot cards shall be available to all taster participants.

Pencils shall be available to all participants.

Official contestant list shall be prepared.

No one may be a scorekeeper if a relative is competing.

It is the responsibility of the chief scorekeeper to record the votes for each contestant.

Contestants may review the ballots and master tally sheet within one hour of the announcement of winners.