

Texas Makers Market Chili Cook Off Bylaws and Agreement

All participants are required to read and follow this agreement to participate in our events.

RULES FOR COOK OFF

Deadline for registrations is October 11, 2026.

After check in, each registration will receive a judging cup, lid, and numbered ticket. Only one cup may be submitted to judges per registration. Write your name on the back of the ticket and place it in a safe space, it is required to claim the winner's rewards. Do not mark or damage the cup in any way. Damaged cups can be replaced by our staff.

All cooking must be done by 1pm for judging. Pre-chopping or mincing or cooking of meats, canned/bottled tomatoes, canned tomato sauce, chopped/diced or canned peppers, pepper sauce, or broths are acceptable. No commercial chili mixes are allowed (2-Alarm Chili Mix, McCormick Chili Mix, etc.) No "fillers" such as pasta, rice, potatoes, hominy, whole peppers, garnishes or whole vegetables are allowed. As we are using the ICS chili definitions summarized below, beans are only allowed in the "Homestyle Chili" or "People's Choice" entries.

Traditional Red Chili includes any kind of meat(s), cooked with red chili peppers, spices and other ingredients. Beans and non-vegetable fillers are not allowed.

Homestyle Chili includes any kind of meat(s) and/or vegetables cooked with beans, chili peppers, spices and other ingredients. Homestyle chili may be any color and can include seafood.

A fire extinguisher is required in every booth that is cooking on site. A staff member or judge will check each booth before cooking starts to ensure these requirements are met. Cooking will begin at 9am and all contestants must be checked in by this time. You may turn in your entry and start serving the public anytime after 12pm. All entries must be turned into the judging area by 1pm and late entries will be disqualified. Our staff will collect the People's Choice tickets starting at 1pm. Winners are chosen for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place by judges based on taste, appearance, and smell. People's Choice is awarded to the booth receiving the most votes by the public. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the end of the event. All trash must be removed from your space at the end of the event. Failure to remove it can result in banning from all future events.

ICS Cooking Categories, summarized from their website <https://www.chilicookoff.com/about/ics-cook-offs>

We look forward to tasting your chili and enjoying the day with you! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Booth details- All cooking must happen within your assigned booth space. Booth fee includes one cooking area and one chili entry to competition. Additional chili entries can be purchased separately and booth spaces can be shared between competing cooks. Spaces are at least 10ft x 10ft and you may purchase multiple spaces if needed, until all spaces are filled. Trailers and food trucks must list on their application dimensions of their trailer/food truck to ensure adequate spacing. Tents are not required. All tents in use must have weights on them. (Stakes are not as reliable in our Texas winds and not all market locations will allow us to use stakes so please plan accordingly. Jugs of water tied to pop ups are not adequate weights.) Quiet generators are allowed, please ask if you are unsure about using your generator. Participants are responsible for providing their own tents, displays, tables, chairs, cooking set ups, and extension cords for electricity (when used.) Participants are responsible for any damages, claims, or issues that arise from their products, booth or items within, generators/extension cords, cooking set ups or vehicles. We do not provide electricity. Participant agrees by signing this application that Texas Makers Market, its agents and representatives, volunteers, and the hosting venues are not liable for any damages, claims, lawsuits, loss, or injuries that arise from your participation and all liability remains with the Participant or non-profit organization who is applying. Absolutely no harassment of fellow Participants, vendors or customers will be tolerated. Please be kind to each other and our customers. If there is a situation, please alert our team immediately so it can be addressed. We want our all of Participants and customers to enjoy their time at our markets. Violators will be given

a verbal warning on first offense, written warning on second offence, and banned from future events upon the third offense. Texas Makers Market reserves the right to decline any application for any reason and reserves the right to ask any Participant to leave at any time. If a Participant is removed from the market or does not check in by the deadline their fees will not be refunded. No Participant vehicles will be allowed in the market area while the market is officially open to the public. If you need to leave early due to an emergency, please alert our team immediately so we can help.

Nonprofits may apply for cooking or informational booths at no charge with proof of their nonprofit status. Nonprofits may use their booth to share their story, provide further information for the community about their services or needs, food sales, adoption events or fundraising activities that are allowable by local laws. There are a limited number of nonprofit booths per month; please let us know if you would like to be added to the nonprofit waiting list if spaces are filled. Please attach proof of your nonprofit status to your application or submit by email.

Items not allowed- Occasionally some hosting locations restrict certain items from their location. Silly string, stink bombs, fireworks, pyrotechnics, guns, illegal drugs, and alcohol are not allowed at any market. No open flames will be allowed where customers access them. (No fire pits, no customers inside cooking area of booth or food trucks, etc.) If you smoke, please ask a team member where the smoking areas are for the market as some venues have designated smoking spaces and we must comply with the host. No alcohol or illegal drug consumption by Participants onsite at events; violators will be removed from the market and banned from future events.

Payments- Booths are assigned once payment is received. Texas Makers Market will assign all spaces before the event. We send emails that include information on parking, set up/break down, weather, payment links and the like. Check payments may be mailed to our address on file and must be received by the day before the deadline. Booth fees are non-refundable. In the event of a Participant having an emergency, booth fees may be credited to a future market if Participant lets Texas Makers Market by know by email or text before start of market. If we have to cancel or reschedule a market due to weather or similar issues all Participants will be alerted by email (or text if you have provided a number for that) and booth fees will be rolled to another market. No shows will not be refunded and repeatedly no showing without a valid reason may ban you from future markets.