

# Eastpoint Fire Dept Rib Cookoff Rules

1. **CONTESTANT** - A contestant is any individual, group, restaurant, etc. hereinafter referred to as a team that will prepare and cook an entry or entries for the purpose of being judged according to event rules. Each team will be comprised of a head cook and as many assistants as required. The contest organizer of any EVFD contest may not cook in any category in that contest. Neither a family member of a competing cook team nor any cook team member of that cook team may enter the judging area at any time during the contest.
2. **INTERPRETATION of RULES** - The interpretation of the rules and regulations are those of the EVFD officials at the contest and his or her decisions are final.
3. **EQUIPMENT** - Each team will supply all of the equipment necessary for the preparation and cooking of their entry including a cooker, wood, charcoal, or wood pellets.
4. **MEAT INSPECTION** - All ribs will be supplied by the event contestants and must be USDA inspected and passed. Meat inspection and distribution to the contestants begins at 5:00am on the day of the contest. All meat must be maintained at a maximum temperature of 40 degrees F until cooking begins. Prior to cooking, all meat that is resting in preparation for cooking must be covered at all times. All meats must be cooked to minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees F. After cooking all meat must be maintained at a minimum temperature of 140 degrees F in a covered container until turned in for judging. All contest meat, once inspected, may not leave the cook team's site until turn in.
5. **COOKING FUELS** - The only approved cooking media are wood, charcoal, or wood pellets. Gas of any kind or any electrical heating element may be used only to start the initial fire or to start burn barrels, charcoal chimneys, etc. A gas starter, gas flame, or electrical heating element may not be used in the cooker after the meat has entered the cooker or during the cooking process. Gas bottles must be disconnected from the cooker once the fire has started and must be removed from the immediate cooking area. A gas flame or electrical heating element may not be used in the cooker during any part of the cooking process.
6. **APPROVED COOKERS** - Any wood, charcoal, or wood pellet fired cookers homemade or commercially manufactured, will be allowed to be used in EVFD contests. Electric or manual operated rotisseries or rotating shelves are permitted during the cooking process however you will have to supply your own power source.
7. **CONTESTANT'S SITE** - Each team will be assigned a cook site. All equipment including cooker, canopy, trailer, etc. must be contained within this space. If additional space is required, the team should contact the contest organizer and make satisfactory arrangements. All equipment (tents, canopies, cookers, etc.) must be removed by 6:00pm on the Sunday following the event. ONLY one vehicle per team allowed at cook site.
8. **BEHAVIOR** - Every team, including members and guests, are expected and required to exhibit proper and courteous behavior at all times. No alcoholic beverages will be distributed to the General Public. Teams will be informed of all local laws and will adhere to same. Failure to abide by these rules of behavior may result in expulsion from the contest and repeat offenders will be barred from competing in EVFD contests.
9. **CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION** - All teams are expected to maintain their cook sites in an orderly and clean manner and to use good sanitary practices during the preparation, cooking, and judging process. The use of sanitary gloves is required at all times while handling food. Failure to use sanitary gloves may result in disqualification. Teams are responsible for cleanup of their site once the competition has ended. All federal, state and local food safety rules and regulations must be adhered to at all times.

10. **MEAT CATEGORIES** - the only category at this event is spare ribs.
11. **JUDGING** - FBA sanctioning allows for blind judging only. Entries will be submitted in an approved container, with NO garnish, or decorating of any kind. Only the entry to be judged is allowed in the container. Marking of any kind will disqualify the entry. Each entry will be judged on PRESENTATION, TASTE/FLAVOR, and TENDERNESS/TEXTURE. Meat may be sauced or unsauced. Number separate and identifiable portions will be determined by judges at event.
12. **SCORING** - Each entry will be scored by six (6) judges in the areas of PRESENTATION, TASTE/FLAVOR, and TENDERNESS/TEXTURE. Scoring ranges from a low of 5.0 to a high of 10.0 in increments of .5 points for each category. Using a weighted average, the maximum score for a category is 200 points. Any entry that is disqualified as per section 13 will receive a score of zero from all judges at that table.
13. **DISQUALIFICATION** - An entry can be disqualified by the judging representative only. An entry can be disqualified for any of the following reasons:
  - a. There is evidence of marking or sculpting. Marking is defined as: any handwritten or mechanically made mark inside or outside the turn-in box that identifies the submitting team to any judge. Sculpting is defined as: the carving, decorating, forming, or shaping of a meat entry contained in a turn-in box that identifies the submitting team to any judge.
  - b. There is anything in the box besides the meat.
  - c. There are not a minimum of specified pieces.
  - d. There is evidence of blood such that the meat is uncooked.
  - e. The entry is turned in after the officially designated time.
  - f. Gloves are not used while handling food products.
  - g. Not cooking the ribs as a single piece of meat.
  - h. Not cooking the meat that was inspected.
14. **JUDGING PROCEDURE** - The table captain brings all the boxes to the table. He or she announces the number of the box to be judged, opens that box and checks for rules violations such as marking, insufficient number of samples, etc. All judges score this box for presentation. Each judge then takes a sample and scores this box for taste and tenderness. The table captain makes sure that all scores for that box are recorded before moving on to the next box. This procedure is repeated for boxes 2 through 6. After all the boxes have been scored the table captain will return the boxes to a designated area. The table captain will then collect the judging slips and turn them over to the EVFD representative. The use of eating utensils is not allowed.
15. **WINNERS** - The winners in each category will be determined by adding all the scores together and the team with the most points will be the grand champion, the team with the next highest total will be 2<sup>nd</sup> place, etc.
16. **TURN IN TIMES** - Rib turn in time will be at 2:00pm SHARP! Meat turn in time as posted by the contest organizer, either in the application form or the confirmation notice, are final and cannot be changed.

There will be a mandatory cooks meeting at 9:00am on cook's row. At least one member of each cooking team must attend.

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