

Dutch Oven Rules

1. A team may consist of one or more members. It is suggested that an adult should accompany any contestant under the age of 18.
2. ONLY TEAM MEMBERS should be allowed in the cooking area! One team member should remain in the cooking area at all times for fire safety reasons.
3. Ingredients cannot be precooked and must be combined, chopped, sliced, or diced during the competition- on site including garnishes. For safety reasons, no ingredients prepared or processed at home are allowed, except where health codes deem this acceptable. All meat must be USDA inspected.
4. All cooking must be done in a Dutch oven and everything cooked MUST be presented to the judges with the exception of excess gravies and sauces, and/or cooked garnishes not specified in the recipe. Removing burnt or undercooked sections of food will lead to disqualification: Side items such as butter, jam or sauces should not be presented to the judges' table unless specifically listed in the recipe and prepared on site. Dishes must be presented to the judges' table on time—NO EXCEPTIONS. All foods submitted for judging should be displayed in the pot or on the lid. For sanitation concerns, please do not display foods on fabric. Field Judges will give time warnings periodically throughout the cookoff.
5. There should be no eating in the cooking area, but all teams should be aware that they need to stay hydrated during the cook off.
6. Use good fire safety practices. Keep yourself and the public safe. You may not use propane stoves to cook your dishes. If fire code allows, propane may be used to start coals. Otherwise, other arrangements will need to be made.
7. Know and practice safe food handling procedures. Food service gloves and some type of hair restraint (hat, hairnet, etc.) should be worn when handling food, except where health codes do not require this. The teams should provide dishwashing facilities and sanitation supplies, unless facilities are provided by the cook off location. Coolers should be provided for all refrigerated items. Keep hot foods above 140° and cold foods below 40°. Field Judges will check cooked meat temperatures prior to judging. There should be no finger licking. Tasting utensils must be washed immediately after use. Wash cutting boards between meats and vegetables to avoid cross-contamination. The local cook off chair may want to expound on this issue to comply with any local Health Department concerns or rules.
8. Garnishing should be SIMPLE and complement the dish being presented. This is not a garnishing contest. Garnishes should be edible. Any flowers used in garnishing should be pesticide free and edible. Field judges have the right to request proof from place of purchase that the flowers comply with this rule.
9. Interaction with the public is encouraged. Please be courteous in sharing cooking information.
10. All judging decisions are final.

THIS DUTCH OVEN COOK OFF AND IT'S SPONSORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR DAMAGE INCURRED DURING THE COOKOFF.