

Springfest
Celebrating 36 Years of Southaven
Barbecue Cooking Contest
April 19 – 23, 2016



OFFICIAL MBN RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Barbecue is defined by the MBN as meat (fresh and uncured) prepared on a wood or charcoal fire, basted or not, as the cook sees fit, with any non-poisonous substances and sauces as the cook believes necessary. There will be three categories in the contest - whole hog, pulled pork, pork ribs (spare or loin). Meat for a contest entry may not be pre-cooked, sauced, injected, marinated, or cured in any way prior to inspection at the beginning of the contest.
 - A whole hog entry is defined by the Memphis Barbecue Network as an entire hog, whose dressed weight is 85 pounds or more prior to removal of head, feet and skin, and which must be cooked as **one** complete unit on one grill surface. No portion or portions of the whole hog may be separated prior to or during the cooking process.
 - A pulled pork entry is defined by the Memphis Barbecue Network as the shoulder, Boston butt, or picnic shoulder portions. It is up to the team to select which meat they use. Whether it be a shoulder, a Boston butt, or a picnic shoulder, it will be judged with the other pulled pork entries.
 - A pork rib entry is defined by the Memphis Barbecue Network as the portion containing the ribs and further classified as a spare rib or loin rib portion. Country style ribs are not a valid entry.

Teams may cook with any type of wood and/or charcoal. Other flammables (propane, compressed or liquid gas, etc.) may be used within the cooker **ONLY** to **START** the **INITIAL** fire. No type of flammables may be used within the cooker once the meat has been placed there. Flammables may be used outside and away from the cooker to make additional coals. Local fire and safety laws may prevent the use of any type of gas anywhere on the grounds at any time, and, if so, these laws shall prevail.

Electrical devices may be used within the cooker as long as they do not directly generate heat. Approved devices include rotisseries, fans and delivery systems for approved fuels (e.g. Traeger grills). Electric smokers, holding ovens or containers, or any other devices with heat producing electrical coils are not allowed.

Meat for the contest must be fresh or frozen. Meat may not be pre-cooked, sauced, spiced, injected, marinated, cured in any way, or otherwise pre-treated prior to official meat inspection at the discretion of BBQ Chairman. Meat must be maintained at a temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit prior to cooking, and at or above 140 degrees after cooking.

2. Each contestant shall supply all meat, seasonings, cooking utensils, barbecue grills and other equipment necessary to prepare samples for judging. Springfest will provide a regulation cooking area. Contestants must adhere to all Springfest, city, county, state or federal codes pertaining to fire and electricity.
3. No contestant's vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit the barricades for any reason after noon on Friday, April 22nd. Contestants must make all deliveries of equipment, stoves, supplies and other paraphernalia prior to Noon Friday, April 22nd. Parking of vehicles in areas other than that provided will result in their relocation to a collection point without prior notification. Parking rules and regulations will be issued with the application acceptance letter. Vehicles of any kind are prohibited on festival grounds during the contest unless specifically approved by the Springfest committee or for the transportation of certifiably handicapped persons. Use of any prohibited vehicle by a contestant, team member or guest will be grounds for disqualification.
4. Each contestant may have as many assistants as are necessary for such chores as hauling wood, hoisting whole pigs and encouraging the cook. During contest judging only 4 assistants will be allowed in the cooking area (those listed on entry form). Any assistant who handles food in any way must comply with paragraph 5 of these rules.
5. Each contestant must comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the City of Southaven and DeSoto County Health Department including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Meat must be 40 degrees or less before cooking. Your coolers with ice will keep it cool enough.
 - b. After cooking, the meat must be maintained at 140 degrees or above in a covered container.
 - c. Entry fee includes an apron for the cook. Assistant's aprons may be purchased for an additional charge.
 - d. Smoking or chewing tobacco during judging times is prohibited.
 - e. Cleanliness of the cook, assistants and contestants is required.

- f. No live animals (DOGS, PIGS, etc.) are allowed in the cooking area.
 - g. Dug pits are not permitted.
 - h. Beer, soft drinks, ice or vendor trucks prohibited from festival grounds unless authorized by Springfest directors. Major sponsor vehicles accepted.
6. A cook's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m., with load-in beginning 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 17th. At that meeting, contestant numbers, cooking area assignments, and vehicle passes will be issued. If you fail to make the cook's meeting, your packet will be available on site no later than Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. Contact a BBQ staff member for your packet. Whole Hog judging begins Saturday at 10:00 a.m., Pulled Pork judging begins at 11:00 a.m. and Rib judging at 12:00 p.m.
7. Preliminary judging will be blind. There will be a brief explanation of the judging procedure at the Contestants meeting. Contestants' scores will be available to all competitors at the end of the Awards Ceremony from the MBN representatives.
8. Contestants may enter and compete in all three categories. Categories must be stated in advance on the entry form. Changes can only be made in writing to the Barbecue Co-chairman. No changes can be made after the cooks' meeting on Friday, April 22nd. The Cook's meeting will be Friday at 5:00 p.m. Each team must have their own cooker.
9. Application fees are based on categories entered. They are \$100.00 for each category. The selection committee reserves the right to reject any application. If your application is not accepted, your fees will be refunded by mail. No refunds of the application fees will be made once you have been accepted into the contest, whether you appear or not. All checks should be made payable to Southaven Springfest.
10. **DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ARE NOT GUARANTEED ENTRANCE TO THE CONTEST. APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 15, 2016 MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Applications must be mailed to or delivered to: 8710 NORTHWEST DRIVE, SOUTHAVEN, MS 38671, ATTN: KRISTI FAULKNER/SPRINGFEST
11. The Southaven Springfest 2016 Barbecue Cooking Contest will be held in Southaven, Mississippi.
12. **A letter of acceptance will be emailed or mailed via USPS to each qualifying team notifying you of a meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at Southaven City Hall, 8710 Northwest Drive, Southaven, MS. Rules, regulations, and other necessary information will be discussed. Team cooking, locations (with NO additional spaces available), and check-in times will be assigned at this time. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is encouraged as no changes of area locations will be made after this meeting.**
13. It is the responsibility of each contestant to see that the contest area is kept clean and that the area is cleaned and policed following the contest. **ALL FIRES MUST BE PUT OUT**, concrete blocks hauled away, and all equipment removed from the site. It is imperative that our cleanup be thorough. Any space left in disarray or with loose trash and/or garbage WILL DISQUALIFY THE TEAM FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION. Trash receptacles will be supplied. The Barbecue Committee requests that all contestants cooperate in the disposal of trash and keeping the area clean.
14. The Chief Cook will be held responsible for the conduct of his team and guests. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages, profane or abusive language, or loud music will be grounds for disqualification. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DISTRIBUTED (GIVEN AWAY OR SOLD) TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 21 BY CONTESTANTS.** The Contest Committee requests and requires that good taste be used – not only in your barbecue but in your behavior as well. We want each team to have a good time, and we want a good atmosphere for those who attend.
15. Contestants may not give or sell any food to the general public but are encouraged to reward the staff workers with generous supplies.
16. **THE SAUCE COMPETITION, ANYTHING BUT COMPETITION, CHAMPIONSHIP COOKING, AND ANY OTHER COMPETITION THAT SPRINGFEST MAY CREATE ARE SEPARATE CONTESTS AND WILL BE JUDGED AS SUCH. RULES, REGULATIONS, AND TIMES FOR NON-CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION WILL BE AVAILABLE BY CALLING OR WRITING THE SPRINGFEST OFFICE. CASH PRIZES WILL BE ANNOUNCED FOR ALL CONTESTS. THE WINNERS IN THE ABOVE CONTESTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY ON SATURDAY EVENING.**
17. No live bands, combos, etc. will be allowed in individual cooking areas without written consent of the Southaven Springfest Coordinator.
18. **QUIET TIME is 12:00 MIDNIGHT FRIDAY UNTIL 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY.**
19. **OPEN FIRES ARE PROHIBITED:** Fires for the purpose of making coals must be contained in an appropriate fire box, screened, and placed well away from pedestrian areas to protect the runway.
20. Beer trucks, etc. other than those of the sponsoring brands will not be allowed on the contest grounds.
21. No fireworks of any kind are permitted in the contest area. Contestants using fireworks or allowing others to use them in their area are subject to disqualification. If you have any problems in this regard, contact the Barbecue Committee immediately.
22. The Barbecue Committee, Springfest representatives, and/or the City of Southaven are not responsible for tents, cookers, or other equipment left unattended before, during or after the contest.
23. The Barbecue Committee reserves the right to make additional regulations as the situation warrants.
24. Decisions of the Barbecue Committee Chairman are final.
25. Violation of Rules and Regulations of the Contest may result in disqualification, expulsion from the grounds and/or disqualification from future participation.
26. Be sure to READ and KEEP the Rules and Regulations for the Southaven Springfest 2016. Copies of the Rules and Regulations are available online at www.southaven.com or by writing to **8710 Northwest Drive, Southaven, MS 38671, ATTN: Springfest.**
27. If you have questions, need to make advance arrangements, or if you have been accepted and then for any reason cannot attend, please write to us at: **8710 Northwest Drive, Southaven, MS 38671, ATTN: Springfest** or contact the Springfest Coordinator at 1-877-TOP OF MS (867-6367) or contact us at www.southaven.com.
28. The use of gas (L. P. etc.) at the grill is strictly prohibited except for the starting of one initial fire for the contest. All gas must then be disconnected from the grill for the duration of the contest.
29. **No load-out until after the Awards Ceremony Saturday night.**