

HOUSTON KOSHER CHILI COOKOFF'S SECRET JUDGING SYSTEM¹

A. Judging is Blind – NO ONE will know whose chili is being judged while it is being judged. And no one will know which chili wins the competition until the winning number is announced.

1. Each team will receive an identical cup with lid and ONE HALF of a raffle ticket to be attached with tape to the outside of the cup. The raffle tickets will not be sequential but random. Teams must keep half of the raffle ticket. **YOU MUST KEEP TRACK OF YOUR NUMBER, NO ONE ELSE WILL KNOW IT.** Be sure that half of the raffle ticket is on the cup at the time of turning it in for judging. **YOU WILL NEED YOUR HALF OF THE TICKET TO CLAIM YOUR TROPHEY WHEN YOUR WINNING ENTRY IS ANNOUNCED.**

2. This is Kosher Chili. Your entry will be disqualified if it is deemed non-compliant with the Kosher Primer's rules as applied. **Appeals are to Kosher authorities in attendance and not to the Committee or its members.**

B. TURN-IN AND ENTRY NUMBERING PROCEDURE

1. TURN IN TIME IS 12:00 (HIGH NOON) Have your cup filled are turned in for judging by bringing your chili to the **Stage** where it will be put in a cooler for delivery to the judges. Do not have any writing on the container and be sure to have your Judges' chili at the designated place at the designated time, not early and not late – Be on time. You must have two people at the stage at that time. One to become a first round judge, the other to take your team's half of the raffle ticket back to your area. **DO NOT SHARE YOUR number with your teammate who will participate in first round judging – it's a disqualification if you do.**

2. The now anonymous containers are then taken to the judges' area. The cups will be assigned randomly to the 1/3 of the first round judges for preliminary judging.

3. No ENTRY will be accepted after judging commences.

C. JUDGING PROCEDURE

1. There are two rounds of judging. For the first round Each judge will have an official judging sheet to mark their personal assessment of the entry on a scale of 1-10 (1= lowest, 10=highest) without comparison to any other chili that they taste. Scoring criteria are aroma, consistency, color, taste and aftertaste. Each cup is scored on its own merits in each category. Each judge must give a score to each cup of chili in every category.

¹ Borrowed shamelessly, without permission, from Terlinqua Rules by Frank Tolbert. Adaptions are those of the Greater Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff, Inc.'s board of directors – referred to as the "Committee".

2. We expect to have three judging tables with each table receiving 1/3rd of the entries for preliminary judging. Not every chili will be tasted by every judge. Each judge will evaluate each chili that is presented to that table for preliminary evaluation.
3. **THE FINALS:** The top Three chilies from each Judging Table based on the cumulative score obtained by the entries judged at that judging table will go on to the finals. In the event of ties both entries will go to the finals. **EACH TABLE WILL SEND ENTRIES TO THE FINALS** – this is to allow for one table being high and another low in points awarded.
4. In judging the final rounds, the past scoresheets are disregarded. The final round judging will have new score sheets used. Taste buds permitting, the Final Round Entries will be judged by each of the final round judges tasting each of the entries. A tie-breaking panel of judges made up of members of the Committee will be called upon to break ties on the final judging table.

THIS IS TEXAS KOSHER CHILI – USE BEANS AT YOUR PERIL!!.

D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

1. Winning chili entry numbers will not be revealed until time to announce winners. After final round judging, the three finalist numbers will be removed from the outside of each cup will be removed and held by the designated committee member for later announcement. Upon announcement of the winning numbers a member of the team whose number was called must present the matching raffle number to claim the team's award.
2. The top Three chili winners will be announced in reverse order of their finish. When your number is called be sure to give the name and organization that sponsored your winning chili to the MC. We would like to publish the names of the winners and runners up for posterity. Trophies will be awarded for Showmanship and the People's choice.
3. A change from years past: the People's choice award is determined solely by the number of "chili tokens" collected – Each person entering with a ticket will get one chili token to give to their favorite chili.
4. Award for showmanship is solely subjective and in the eyes of the Committee.

We have assembled a panel of judges who have promised to be impartial and to evaluate each chili on its own merit.

MOST OF ALL, BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN