



Chili Cook-Off Rules 2025

The following rules are to be adhered to by all cook-off chairmen, chefs, team members, and/or assistants, at Napa Moose chili cook-off:

1. Chili is defined as any kind of meat, or combination of meats, cooked with chili peppers, various other spices, and other ingredients (may include beans). Any other non-vegetable “fillers” such as rice or pasta is strictly forbidden.
2. No ingredient may be pre-cooked or treated in any way prior to the preparation period which will begin approximately one hour prior to the commencement of the official cook-off. The only exceptions are canned beans or bottled tomatoes, tomato sauce, peppers, pepper sauce, beverages, broth and grinding and/or mixing of spices. Meat may be pre-cut or ground but not treated, smoked, or cooked in any way. Fresh ingredients (vegetables and herbs) may be pre-chopped but not treated in any way such as par-cooking, blanching, etc. Any cheese garnishes for serving may be pre-shredded.
3. The cooking period will begin at approximately 9 am and last for 4 hours max, ending at approximately 1pm. The exact starting and ending of the cooking period are to be announced by the Moose Lodge Chili Cook-off committee during the event. Cooking during the entire cooking period is at the sole discretion of the contestant.
4. A minimum of 3 gallons of chili must be made by each team.
5. Contestants are permitted to have a maximum of three assistants in their cooking area for a total of 4 official team members.
6. Contestants are responsible for supplying all of their own stoves, tents, pots, cooking utensils, etc. The sponsors of the cook-off will provide an area for each contestant to set up and cook.
7. Contestants are permitted to set up their equipment, decorations and other facilities any time starting 8:00 a.m. on the day of the cook-off.

8. Each contestant will be assigned a contestant's number and be given a container in which their chili will be collected at the time of the official judging. Each contestant should verify that the number on the bottom of their container is the same as their contestant's number assigned to them. At the option of the Chief Judge each contestant may be required to cover their number on the bottom of the container with non-transparent tape prior to giving the bowl to the collector or delivering it to the judging area.
9. Not more than one quart of each contestant's chili will be collected at the end of the cooking period for purposes of judging.
10. Each team will also receive a dedicated jar or container to collect voting tickets from cook-off tasting patrons. Each tasting attendee will receive one voting ticket to submit their vote for their favorite choice chili, by placing it in the elected team's jar. The team with the most voting tickets when collected will receive Peoples' Choice award.
11. Two formal awards will be given: **Peoples' Choice** and **Official Tasting Judges Decision**. Runner-up positions in each category may also be acknowledged or announced.
12. All other rule interpretations are at the discretion of the Moose Board and Napa Moose Chili Cook-Off Committee on the day of the competition.