



# Sombbrero Festival 2024

## Chili Cook-off Rules & Regulations

The event will be held Friday, March 1, 2024 at Washington Park in Brownsville, TX under the Big Tent.

**REGISTRATION:** The entry fee is \$100.00 and must be paid upon registration.

The previous year's cooking teams will have until January 6, 2023 to pay for and reserve a designated cooking location, which the team will choose from the 2024 event map. On January 6, 2023, registration will open for all teams not yet registered. At that time, registrations will be accepted on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, AND WILL SELECT THEIR COOKING LOCATION IN THE ORDER OF PAID REGISTRATION.** A map of the assigned spots will be sent to all teams 2 weeks prior to the event.

**(NOTE: The date for the final registration drive should not be misconstrued to imply that teams will be accepted until this date. Only a limited number of slots are available, and once those slots are filled no new teams will be accepted)**

**UNLOADING OF EQUIPMENT:** You will be assigned a specific gate to enter through to unload your cooking equipment. **THERE WILL BE NO PARKING INSIDE PARK.**

**COOKING:** Traditional Red Chili is defined by the International Chili Society as any kind of meat or combination of meats, cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients, with the exception of BEANS which are **strictly forbidden.**

All ingredients will be inspected prior to start of contest for the following:

No ingredients may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the start of the contest. Meat may be cut or ground, **BUT MAY NOT BE PRE-COOKED.** All other ingredients must be brought to the event raw and uncut. You may not begin cutting/chopping ingredients until the contest begins.

**A Minimum of four (4) pounds of Chili (NO BEANS) is required. All meats and ingredients MUST BE COOKED ON-SITE.**

**SAFETY:** No open campfire type fires are allowed. Please utilize a gas or propane burner. Electricity will not be provided & portable generators are not allowed. **NO BAR-B-QUE PITS ARE ALLOWED.** The Fire Marshall will be inspecting for open fires and for Bar-B-Que pits.

**\*\*EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON-SITE\*\***

Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary manner as is possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the promoter.

**SET-UP:** All participants will be provided 1 table and 2 folding chairs and are encouraged to decorate their prospective cooking areas. Teams should not exceed the **space limitation of 10' x 10'.** This includes all decorations and structures. Teams may bring 1 additional table not to exceed 2' x 4' for food prep. Participants may not use extra space other than the area or space provided. You may be asked to move if you are infringing on a fellow cooker's space, or the right-of-way footpath. Contestants are responsible for supplying their own cooking utensils, etc. We recommend providing sample cups and spoons for festival-goers to taste.



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**JUDGING:** Each contestant will be issued an official judging cup the day of the event, along with a set of tickets. These two tickets, bearing the same number, will both be used—one firmly attached to the cup in a manner which hides the number, and the other ticket that is easily removable by the Head Cook for retention after signing the Head Cook's name on it. Winning numbers will not be revealed until the award ceremony. At this time, the winning teams' numbers will be announced.

. Each contestant is responsible to deliver their cup to the judging area at the official time for judging. At the discretion of the head judge, cooks may be required to remove the lids from their entries and taste their entry before turning it in for judging (if a contestant refuses, their chili will be disqualified). If a cup is damaged, a replacement cup can be obtained only after the head cook turns in the damaged cup and BOTH tickets.

**JUDGES:** Judges must be 18 years or older. Judges will vote for the chili they like best based on the following: Good Flavor, Texture of Meat, Consistency, Blends of Spices, Aroma, and Color. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.** After the cup has been turned in, any cup found in violation of the rules will be disqualified at the discretion of the Head Judge.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Sombbrero Festival is a fun, family-friendly environment; as such, Team Names and Recipe Names are not allowed to be political in nature, vulgar, or offensive. They are also not allowed to be corporate in nature, or an attempt to market any commercial product, good or service. Determination on the appropriateness of any Team or Recipe name is at the sole discretion of Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. Names and designs are subject to approval of Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.

**Any and all items distributed from a cooking area, or distributed by a cooking team, including but not limited to giveaways, are subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.**

**Any and all items displayed from a cooking area, or displayed by a cooking team, are subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. including but not limited to signs, banners, flags, shirts, cups, placards, etc.**



# **Sombbrero Festival 2024**

## **Chili Cook-Off Rules/Regulations**

### **\*\*Management Rules\*\***

- Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
- Decisions made by judges and event promoter are final.
- NO alcoholic beverages or soft drinks may be brought into the park.
- NO concealed weapons may be brought into the park.
- The Head Cook is responsible for:
  - Keeping their area clean and safe
  - The conduct of their team and guests

**\*\*Violation(s) of the above rules and/or failure to comply with the rules, regulations or standards established will result in disqualification of the entire team and the entry fee will be forfeited.**

### **\*\*Cancellation Clause\*\***

The performance of this Agreement by either party shall be subject to force majeure, including but not limited to acts of God, fire, flood, natural disaster, acts or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, unauthorized strikes, governmental regulation or advisory, recognized health threats as determined by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, or local government authority or health agencies (including but not limited to the health threats of COVID-19, H1N1, or similar infectious diseases), or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, where any of those factors, circumstances, situations, or conditions or similar ones prevent, dissuade, or unreasonably delay at least 25 percent of prospective Event attendees from attending, or where any of them make it illegal, impossible, inadvisable, or commercially impracticable to hold the Event or to fully perform the terms of the Agreement. The Agreement may be cancelled by either party, without liability, damages, fees, or penalty, and any unused deposits or amounts paid shall be refunded, for any one or more of the above reasons, by written notice to the other party.



# Sombbrero Festival 2024

## Chili Cook-Off Rules/Regulations

### PACKET PICK-UP:

This is where T-Shirts for the Cook and the Assistant Cook will be distributed along with wristbands for admission that **must be worn** to gain admission to the park on the day of the event.

**Packet Pick-Up will take place at the following locations in the days leading up to the Festival:**

- Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.
  - Falcon International Bank, 1805 US-77, Brownsville, TX 78526
- Sunday, February 25, 2023 from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
  - Cobbleheads, Brownsville, TX 78520

Cash Prizes will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, as well as the Showmanship Award

### **\*\*Tentative Schedule of Events\*\***

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM** Big Tent opens for set-up & decoration of space

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM:** Inspections of ingredients

**4:30 PM:** GRITO, begin cutting ingredients and start “burners”

**5:00 PM:** Head Cook meeting at judging area (pick-up of official judging cup)

**6:40 PM - 7:00 PM:** FINAL Judging cups containing chili submitted for judging (the earliest time the chili can be submitted is 6:40 p.m. and the latest time the cup can be submitted is 7:00 p.m. No late submissions will be taken)

**8:30 PM:** Announcement of winners

**\*\*Times subject to change according to number of contestants or unforeseen circumstances\*\***

### **Sign-up and Contacts**

All Cook-off sign-ups will be handled by:

**Charlie Abrego, VP of Cook-Off Events**

**Email:** [SFCookoffs@gmail.com](mailto:SFCookoffs@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (832) 362-2960

Any additional questions or concerns please contact:

**AVP of Cook-Off Events**

**Arnulfo “ARod” Rodriguez / Phone:** (956) 827-9263

**Blanca Gomez, / Phone:** (956) 545-4824

**Jacob Tamayo / Phone:** (956) 371 - 5290

**Johnathan Gonzalez / Phone:** (956) 207-7766

**Email:** [SFCookoffs@gmail.com](mailto:SFCookoffs@gmail.com)



# Cook-Off Registration Irrevocable Agreement & Waiver Form

I waive any and all claims for myself, my partner and heirs against all officials, sponsors and organizations connected with Sombbrero Festival, Ltd. for any injury, which may directly or indirectly result from my participation in this event.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chili Cook-Off

Frijolympics

Please Print: Name of your recipe/team  
(Subject to approval by Sombbrero Festival, Ltd.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Head Cook

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Assistant Cook

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone (On-site number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone (On-site number)

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee (Due upon submission - \$100= one event/\$200=both)**

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Chk No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PayPal \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: [SFcookoffs@gmail.com](mailto:SFcookoffs@gmail.com)



## Cook-Off Registration Drives

Cook-Off registration packets will be distributed to RETURNING teams on October 12, 2023. Returning teams will have until December 9, 2023 to reclaim their cooking spots from Sombbrero Festival 2023. Packets can be turned in to Sombbrero Festival Cook-Off Organizers at the following Registration Drives:

Date	Location	Time	Notes
October 12, 2023	Luke Fruia Motors	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Same Location as Membership Drive
October 21, 2023	The Lucky Barrel	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
November 15, 2023	Main Event	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	
December 9, 2023	Cobbleheads	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	

On January 6 , 2023 Cook-Off registration will open to the public, and spots will be assigned on a first come first served basis. Additional sign-up dates are TBD, as Cooking Spots are limited.

Date	Location	Time	Notes
January 6, 2023	The Lucky Barrel	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
January 12, 2023	Cobbleheads	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	
January 25, 2023	Luke Fruia Motors	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	