

- 1) The decision and interpretations of the KCBS Rules and Regulations are at the discretion of the KCBS Contest Representatives at the contest. Their decisions and interpretations are final to the extent consistent with the rules.
- 2) A chief cook and/or an officially registered, current KCBS member assistant chief cook must be present to be awarded Team of the Year points. The team may also have as many assistants as the chief cook deems necessary. A team shall not compete in more than one KCBS sanctioned contest under the same team's name, on the same date. Chief cooks and/or assistant cooks may only cook for their designated team at the contest they are attending. The only exception to this rule is participation in one-meat competitions held in conjunction with a Master or Backyard competition.
- 3) Each team will be assigned a cooking space. Pits, cookers, props, trailers, motor homes, vehicles, tents, or any other equipment (including generators) shall not exceed the boundaries of the team's assigned cooking space. All seasoning and cooking of product shall be done within the assigned cooking space. Teams shall not share an assigned cooking space or cooking device.
- 4) Contestants shall provide all needed equipment, supplies and electricity, except as arranged for in advance. Contestants must adhere to all electrical, fire and other codes.
- 5) It is the responsibility of the contestant to see that the team's assigned cooking space is safe, clean, and orderly following the contest. All fires must be put out, pits filled (if allowed by contest organizer), and all equipment removed from site. It is imperative that clean-up be thorough. Any team's assigned cooking space left in disarray or with loose trash, other than at trash containers, may disqualify the team from future participation at KCBS sanctioned events.
- 6) Fires shall be of wood, wood pellets or charcoal. Gas and electric heat sources shall not be permitted for cooking or holding. Any cooking, warming vessel, or device can be pre-heated and used as long as any non KCBS approved heat source(s) are DISCONNECTED AND DISABLED PRIOR TO CONTAINING THE COMPETITION PROTEIN. Propane or electric is permitted as fire starters, provided that the competition meat is not in/on the cooking device. Electrical accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are permitted. No open pits or holes are permitted, except at the election of the contest organizer. Fires shall not be built on the ground.
- 7) All competition meats shall be inspected by the Official Meat Inspector during the times established by the contest organizer but not prior to the day before judging. In a multiple day contest, the meat must be inspected daily for each event. A member of the cooking team must be present during meat inspection. Once the competition meat has been inspected, it shall not leave the contest site. Cooking

shall not begin until the competition meat has been inspected by the Official Meat Inspector. All competition meat shall start out raw. No pre-seasoned meat is allowed other than manufacturer enhanced or injected products, as shown on label EXCLUDING but not limited to teriyaki, lemon pepper or butter injected. Transglutaminase (TG or TGase) or "meat glue" does not season and is not injected. Competition meat not meeting these qualifications shall be disqualified, not allowed to be turned in, and not judged, and receives no score. When the contest organizer supplies the meat, the contestant is not required to enter only that meat, the single exception is when an organizer provides all four (4) meats. If an organizer provides all four meats it must be in a fair and equitable manner with regards to quantity, quality, and distribution. Additionally, the organizer must specifically address on the team application how the meats will be distributed, the quantities of the meat to be provided, and when the meats will be distributed. If after receipt of their meat a team believes their meat is spoiled, they should bring it to the attention of the reps. If the reps agree, the organizer must have additional meat on hand, of the same brand and quality, to replace. Contests providing all four meats must be approved by the Board of Directors and not approved by the office. Competition meat not meeting these qualifications shall be disqualified, not allowed to be turned in, and not judged, and receives no score.

- 8) Barbeque for the purposes of the KCBS Rules is cooking the four KCBS Meat Categories 10) below on a device defined in 6) above. Parboiling, Sous-vide, and/or deep-frying competition meat is not allowed. Chicken may be cooked and served breaded. Searing meat with a gas torch is also prohibited. If any of the banned processes are discovered before the team turns in, the team will receive zeros. If discovered after turn-in, the team will receive a one (1) in all criteria for that entry.
- 9) Meat shall not be sculptured, branded, or presented in a way to make the team's entry identifiable. Rosettes of meat slices are not allowed. Violations of this rule will be scored a one (1) on all criteria by all six judges.
- 10) The Four KCBS Meat Categories:
 - CHICKEN: Chicken includes Cornish Game Hen and Kosher Chicken.
 - PORK RIBS: Ribs shall include the bone. Country style ribs are prohibited.
 - PORK: Pork is defined as Boston Butt, Boston Roast, Picnic, Collar (aka Cellar) and/or Whole Shoulder.
 - BEEF BRISKET: May be whole brisket, flat, or point. Corned beef is not allowed.

- 11) Judging typically starts at Noon on Saturday. The four (4) KCBS categories will be judged in the following order:

CHICKEN	NOON
PORK RIBS	12:30 pm
PORK	1:00 pm
BEEF BRISKET	1:30 pm

- 12) Any modification of turn in times or the order the categories will be judged must be approved by the KCBS office. The modified times or change in category order must be published in the cooks' packet well in advance of the contest and be confirmed at the cooks' meeting. An entry will be judged only at the time established by the contest organizer. The allowable turn-in time will be five (5) minutes before to five (5) minutes after the posted time with no tolerance. A late turn-in will not be accepted by a Rep and will receive a 0 (zero) in all criteria.
- 13) Garnish is optional, if used, once determined to be legal, garnish plays no further role in the appearance score. When used, garnish is limited to chopped, sliced, shredded or whole leaves of fresh green lettuce, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley, curly green kale and/or cilantro. PROHIBITED GARNISHES ARE lettuce cores, stems separated from leaves, and other vegetation, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: endive, red tipped lettuce. "PROHIBITED" garnish shall receive a penalty score of one (1) on Appearance.
- 14) Sauce is optional. If used, it shall be applied directly to the meat and not be pooled or puddled in the container. No side sauce containers will be permitted in the turn-in container. Chunky sauce will be allowed. Chunks are to be no larger than a fine dice, 1/8 inch cubed. Sauce violations shall receive a penalty score of one (1) on Appearance.
- 15) Entries will be submitted in an approved KCBS numbered container, provided by the contest organizer. The number must be on top of the container at turn-in.
- 16) The container shall not be marked in any way to make the container unique or identifiable. ONLY the acceptable meat for the category being judged and legal garnish may be in the turn-in box. Aluminum foil, toothpicks, skewers, foreign material, and/or stuffing are prohibited in the container. A hair or brush bristle is not considered a foreign item as it is impossible to determine where this was introduced. A bone may be part of the Pork entry if it has not been altered in any way and is from the approved cut of meat inspected for the category. Marked entries or containers with the above listed material will receive a one (1) in all criteria from all Judges and disqualified.

Exception to this rule are small items that are NOT seen at the time of appearance scoring and are inside, underneath, or attached to one judge's sample.—When a foreign object, that is not of the nature that it clearly reveals the team box (e.g., flag, team number or name on an object, etc.), is found AFTER the Appearance scores have been recorded, the following guidelines are to be used:

- a. If the object is attached to a sample that is removed, only the judge receiving that sample scores the penalty for foreign object. This can be applied to multiple judges scores if objects are found on multiple samples.
- b. If the object is noticed after sample(s) are removed and remains in the box after the sample is removed, only the judges removing samples while / after the object(s) is noticed shall levy the penalty. For example, if while removing a sample judge #3 sees an object and this object remains in the box, judges 3,4,5 and 6 will score a one in all categories while judges 1 and 2 score as though there is no infraction to the foreign object rule.
- c. If the object(s) are determined by the Reps to help designate a particular team name or number, all judges will give a one in all categories.

Once the sixth judge has taken his or her samples and the box is closed and is released for the leftover table, nothing inside or on the box can be used to determine a marked box, illegal garnish, or foreign item in box.

- 17) Each contestant must submit at least six (6) portions of meat in an approved container. Chicken, pork, and brisket may be submitted chopped, pulled, sliced, or diced as the cook sees fit, as long as there is enough for six (6) judges. Ribs shall be turned in bone-in. Judges may not cut, slice, or shake apart to separate pieces. If there is not enough meat for each judge to sample, the shorted judge(s) will score a one (1) on all criteria, and the judges having samples will change the Appearance score to one (1) as a penalty.
- 18) The following cleanliness and safety rules will apply:
 - a. No use of any tobacco products while handling meat.
 - b. Cleanliness of the cook, assistant cooks, cooking device(s) and the team's assigned cooking space is required.
 - c. Shirt and shoes are required to be worn.
 - d. Sanitizing of work area should be implemented with the use of a bleach/water rinse (one cap/gallon of water). Each contestant will provide a separate container for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing of utensils.
 - e. First aid is not required to be provided by the contest, except at the election of the contest organizer.
 - f. Prior to cooking, meat must be maintained at 40° F or less.
 - g. After cooking, all meat: Must be held at 140° F or above OR Cooked meat shall be cooled as follows: Within 2 hours from 140° F to 70° F and within 4 hours from 70° F to 41° F or less.
 - h. Meat that is cooked, properly cooled, and later reheated for hot holding and serving shall be reheated so that all parts of the food reach a temperature of at least 165° F for a minimum of 15 seconds.
 - i. **A fire extinguisher shall be near all cooking devices.**

- 19) There will be no refund of entry fees for any reason, except at the election of the contest organizer.

CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION & EVICTION of a team, its members and/or guests. **The Eviction will be done at the discretion of the contest Rep as promptly as safety allows.** A cook team is responsible jointly and severally for its head cook, its team members, and its guests.

- a. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication with a disturbance.
- b. Serving alcoholic beverages to the general public.
- c. Use of illegal controlled substances.
- d. Foul, abusive, or unacceptable language or any language causing a disturbance.
- e. Excessive noise, including but not limited to that generated from speakers, such as radios, CD players, TVs, public address systems or amplifying equipment, will not be allowed during quiet time, designated to start at 11:00 p.m. on contest nights and will last until 7:00 a.m. unless otherwise determined by the event.
- f. Fighting and/or disorderly conduct.
- g. Theft, dishonesty, cheating, use of prohibited meats, or any act involving moral turpitude.
- h. Use of gas or other auxiliary heat sources inside the cooking device.
- i. Violation of any of the KCBS Rules 2 through 7 **in whole or in part shall result in Disqualification and Eviction from the contest.**

Excessive or continued complaints from teams on any of the above rule infractions shall be considered grounds for immediate disqualification from the contest by KCBS Representatives, Organizers and/or Security. In addition, any violation of the above rules shall be reported to the KCBS Board of Directors who may in addition to the above disqualification impose additional penalties upon the team, the head cook, and its members including but not limited to disqualification from competing in KCBS events for a period of time not to exceed five years. All complaints of disturbance or violation of quiet time shall be reported to the Board of Directors.

CLARIFICATION: If the team does not turn in a product or is disqualified and not allowed to turn in or is late for turn in, that team's category is not accepted and not judged and receives no score. If a product is turned in and then penalized or disqualified for any reason, such as no bone in ribs, etc., it will be judged and will receive a one (1) or ones (1s) in all criteria depending on the rule violation.



**KANSAS CITY
BARBEQUE
★ SOCIETY ★**

**2026
Official Rules and Regulations**

MASTER SERIES

The following rules, regulations, and judging procedures will be used at all KCBS Sanctioned **Master** Contests Effective November 10, 2025.

*The Kansas City Barbeque Society
402 E. Bannister Road, Suite E
Kansas City, MO 64131
Phone: 816-765-5891 or 1-800-963-KCBS
Email: info@kcbbs.us
www.kcbbs.us*

CREED

Rules are designed to be fair and equal to all cooks. Integrity of the Contestants, Judges, KCBS Contest Representatives, and Organizers is essential.

© 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
© 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025,
2026
KCBS Version 20289

For all contests starting 11/10/2025 through 12/31/2026