

BBQ Contest Rules

1. **CONTESTANT.** A contestant is any individual, group, restaurant, etc., hereinafter referred to as a team of no more than 4 people, that will prepare and cook an entry or entries to be judged. The minimum age to enter is 16 years old. All contestants/participants must have a valid USVI Health Card on their person the day of the event. The sale of food items is strictly prohibited unless the Contestant has a valid business license that permits them for off-premise sales of food items. Each Contestant must prepare enough 2-3 oz. samples for 4 judges and up to 100 people for each category entered.

Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from this contest.

2. **INTERPRETATION OF RULES.** The interpretation of the LEATHERBACK BREWING CO. rules and regulations are those of the LEATHERBACK BREWING CO. and Luciano Entertainment Lead Representative at the contest and his or her decisions are final. The LEATHERBACK BREWING CO. Lead Representative may not deviate from nor change any rule for any contest for any reason.

3. **EQUIPMENT.** Each team will supply all the equipment necessary for the preparation and cooking of their entry, including a cooker, wood, charcoal, or wood pellets AND a 10x10 tent or food truck.

4. **MEAT (INCLUDING FISH).** All meats must be cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees F. After cooking, all meat must be maintained at a minimum temperature of 140 degrees F in a covered container until served.

5. **COOKING.** The only approved cooking media are wood, charcoal, propane, indirect heat cooking, or wood pellets. You may marinate or smoke any meat/fish before the event.

6. **APPROVED COOKERS.** Any wood, charcoal, or wood pellet-fired cookers, homemade or commercially manufactured, will be allowed to be used in the contest. Frying with any form of fat, butter, or any type of oil is prohibited. You must provide a generator if using an electric grill.

7. **CONTESTANT'S SITE.** Each team will be assigned a cook site. All equipment, including cooker, canopy, trailer, etc., must be contained within this space. If additional space is required, the team should contact the Contest Organizer and make satisfactory arrangements. All Contestants must be set-up and ready NO LATER than 12:00 PM on the day of the event. Early set-up is permitted but will be no earlier than 10:00 AM.

8. BEHAVIOR. Every team, including members and guests, is expected and required to, exhibit proper and courteous behavior at all times. Only authorized vendors will be permitted to sell alcoholic beverages. Failure to abide by these rules of behavior may result in expulsion from the contest and repeat offenders will be barred from competing in LEATHERBACK BREWING CO. sanctioned contests.

9. CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION. All teams are expected to maintain their cook sites in an orderly and clean manner and to use proper sanitary practices during the preparation, cooking, and handling. **The use of sanitary gloves is required at all times while handling food.** Failure to use sanitary gloves may result in disqualification. Teams are responsible for the cleanup of their site once the competition has ended. Trash receptacles will be provided in various locations, but you are encouraged to bring your own. All federal, state and local food safety rules and regulations must be adhered to at all times.

10. CATEGORIES. Contestants may enter as many categories as they desire. The judging categories will be beef sliders, ribs, brisket, chicken wings, fish, vegetarian, and BBQ Sauce.

11. JUDGING. Blind judging will be used for this event. Contestants will not know who the judges are prior to the event. Judges will be non-biased and be selected from various backgrounds with an emphasis on food, especially BBQ, background. Judges will score on a scale of 1 through 10 (1 being the lowest, 10 being the highest) and will base those scores on: preparation, flavor, tenderness. Additionally, each public participant will score Contestants entries based on the same scoring scale. These scores will be added for the People's Choice Award.

12. FEES AND PRIZES. Contestants are required to pay \$25 (cash) per category they wish to enter. The fee is non-refundable. This fee guarantees your 10x10 spot in the contest to be held on June 14, 2025, starting at 12:00 PM with service starting at 1:00 PM. Prizes will be given to First, Second and Third place in each category and will include a certificate, cash prizes, merchandise, gift certificates, and bragging rights on social media and in the community.