



Fire Ant Festival Committee

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Pizza Cook-Off Association Rules

Fire Ant Festival 2024

March 22-23, 2024

- Events are open to anyone 18 years of age or older and must be a member of the Pizza Cook-off Association (PCA) to enter a competition.
- All events will be capped off to the first 50 cooks to register online.
- Registration payments must be made at time of sign-up.
- Cooking source can be pizza ovens, smoker, or propane grill, and they can be fueled by wood, charcoal, wood pellets, or gas.
- Each cook is encouraged to bring their own pizza oven, smoker, or grill. Depending on the event, the PCA will provide pizza ovens for cooks to utilize.
- Cook teams can enter more than one entry, if they are a member of the PCA, and pay a separate entry fee.
- Each cooking team is required to have some type of fire extinguisher at their cook site.
- Each cook team will be assigned a site by the PCA Rep. Tents 10' x 10' are permissible, and encouraged.
- Each cooking team will be expected to keep a clean work area, maintain safe and sanitary cooking methods during the competition, and will be responsible to clean up their site after the competition.
- Cook's meetings will be announced prior to the event.
- Cook teams can use commercially prepared, or self-made dough, or pre-made crust. The dough or crust must be ready and present when checking in for competition. Dough cannot be made onsite.
- Cook teams will also provide all ingredients and utensils needed to cook and prepare pizza.
- Pizzas must be 12" round or 12" square. Must be turned in UNCUT and placed on a 14" round cardboard circle.
- PCA will provide white, 14" round cardboard circles.
- Pizza Category will be designated as "Creative Choice", meaning **make your best pizza!**
- For initial pizza turn-ins, there will be a 45-minute window. The number of judges will be determined by the number of registered cooks.
- The timeline for each event will be based on how many cooks participate, and may be adjusted if need be at the discretion of the PCA Rep.
- Our goal for the PCA is to let people attending the event be able to taste some of the pizzas being cooked. Promoter has the option to request 1 pizza from each team, but cook teams can

practice and donate more than one if they choose. You have the option to place a table tent with your name of your cook team or business name with the pizza or pizzas you donate.

→ Each registered cook must make their own pizza. Cooking any pizza for another registered cook or team will result in a disqualification for both parties.

→ Judging will consist of PCA certified pizza judges who have successfully completed a PCA Certified Judging Class.

→ There will be 2 rounds of judging. The first round, pizzas will be judged one at a time. And for the finals, comparative judging will be conducted, meaning all 5 pizzas will be scored against each other.

→ The first round of judging for all cooks will be blind and based on 4 categories...Appearance, Construction, Crust, and Taste. Scores are entered in whole numbers, 7 through 10.

→ The entries with the top five scores will cook again in the finals and will be judged again by a panel of five final judges. Each of these teams will be notified of their selection as a finalist as soon as possible. After the finalists have been notified, they will have 30 minutes to light their oven and prep, and from that point have 10 minutes to turn in. Scores will be compiled to determine first through 5th place.

→ Judging for the final 5 contestants will be also be blind and based on Appearance, Construction, Crust, Taste, and a 5th category of Overall Impression will be added.

→ Scoring is conducted in a manner that will not result in a tie.

→ All Pizza event winners will automatically be qualified to compete for the Pizza Cook-off Association National Championship held each year. Date to be determined.

→ Also, the top 5 points leaders will qualify to compete in the Pizza Cook-off Association National Championship.

→ Points will be earned as follows:

1st place – 10 points

2nd place – 8 points

3rd place – 6 points

4th place – 4 points

5th place – 2 points

→ Disqualifications include:

Cooking for another registered team

Pizza turned in after designated turn in time

Foreign object found in turn in box

Pizza not meeting category specification

→ There will be 1 ancillary category at each event, which will be selected by the promoter.

→ The interpretation of all PCA rules are those of the PCA Representative at the event, and his or her decision is final.

Ancillary Rules

An Ancillary category is a great way to include all of the cook's family in the spirit of the event. By adding an Ancillary category, the teams have additional things to cook during the day and more chances to be recognized and win prize money.

- Ancillary competitions are open to anyone 14 years or older, and are not required to be a member of the PCA.
- Ancillary competitors must be a part of a registered pizza team cooking at the event.
- There will be 1 ancillary event at each cook off, and the dish must be Italian. The Promoter will decide on one of the following categories:

- Appetizer
- Pasta (can include meat, fish, or seafood)
- Calzone
- Stromboli
- Italian Sub
- Risotto
- Desserts

- Ancillaries can be cooked in pizza oven or any other heat source.
- Meat products, as well as other ingredients can be pre-cooked and then assembled on site to complete your entry.
- Ancillary category must be homemade. No store bought dishes or restaurant dishes will be allowed, and will be subjected to disqualification.
- Rule of thumb...the more authentic and homemade, the better.
- All turn-ins can be submitted in any type of dish, platter, tray, bowls, etc.
- Garnish is permitted, and will be part of the appearance score.
- Turn-in amounts must be enough for 6 judges. You can submit 6 single portions, or submit as one large portion.
- Rule of thumb....the more authentic and homemade, the better.
- All entries will be judged on Appearance, Taste, Creativity, Execution and Overall Impression.
- Scoring is conducted in a manner that there will be no ties.