



\*\*\*\*FOR JFA USE ONLY\*\*\*\*

PAID \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ FRUIT JAR \_\_\_\_\_

**HEAT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BOOTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jambalaya Festival Association  
**2025 JAMBALAYA COOKING CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

PLEASE PRINT.

COOK'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COOK'S EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COOK'S PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HELPER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HELPER'S EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HELPER'S PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S SLOGAN: \_\_\_\_\_

There will be a cooks' meeting **Monday, May 5 2025 at 6:00PM** at the JFA Building on S. Francois Street in Gonzales. It is **mandatory** that a representative of your cooking team be at this meeting. Entry form and sponsor's check for \$350.00 payable to the Jambalaya Festival Association must be turned in at that time in order to be registered.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the contest (attached) and should I win the contest and become the WORLD CHAMPION JAMBALAYA COOK FOR 2025 – 2026, I hereby accept the Jambalaya Festival Association as my agent for one year from the date of the contest. The JFA reserves the right to assign cooking jobs for the association, as the board deems necessary. The JFA reserves the right to amend or change any rules or regulations at their discretion. I also acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of the JFA Jambalaya Cooking Contest Rules.

**For questions about the Jambalaya Cooking Contest, please contact Mike Gonzales, 225-210-6032.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
COOK'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

# JAMBALAYA COOKING CONTEST RULES

## 1. **Cooking ingredients MUST include:**

- Preliminary: 25lbs chicken, 10lbs rice
- Semi-finals: 37.5lbs chicken, 15lbs rice
- Finals: 50lbs chicken, 20lbs rice

## **Other ingredients and seasoning can be chosen from the following:**

Yellow Onions	Garlic (fresh & granulated)
Green Onions	Red Pepper
Red Hot Sauce	Bell Peppers
Celery	Salt
Black Pepper	Cooking Oil

**\*\* No other personal seasoning allowed in the cooking area. Only ingredients provided by the JFA.**

**Ingredients will be delivered to the cooking area thirty minutes prior to the start of your heat. \*\***

**Cooks can only use Lamar Dixon faucet supplied water to cook their jambalaya. Cooks cannot bring into the cooking area any personal bottled water nor can cook use the bottled water available to cooks from JFA sponsors.**

2. Cooks must furnish a black iron pot with metal lid and paddle.
3. Jambalaya must be cooked on wood furnished by the JFA. In addition, each team is allowed to have the equivalent of one 5-gallon bucket of kindling per round: Champ of Champs, Prelim, Semi-finals, Finals. **Cooks are not allowed to use an air blower to enhance the fire under your pot.**
4. No former champion can be a helper.
5. Cooks will be furnished with two (2) hinged plates for their own sample.
6. Cooks will be given a double ticket, attached to a small styrofoam container, as well as an ice chest which will be submitted for judging. You will remove half of the ticket and keep it in your possession. It is your responsibility to safeguard this ticket. No cook will be allowed to move into the semi-final or final rounds unless you can produce a valid / legible ticket for inspection when the top scores are announced for each of the categories. The other half will remain attached to the styrofoam container, placing the container in the ice chest and bringing the ice chest to the trailer promptly at the end of your designated heat time.
7. At the end of your heat, you must remove your pot away from the fire. You will then have 15 minutes to prepare your ice chest for judging and get it loaded onto the trailer. Field judges will have gauge sticks to ensure your turn in the required amount of jambalaya for the heat.
8. Cooks will be allowed to back up to your assigned cooking booth and leave your vehicle there while cooking (where possible).
9. You will not be allowed to move into your cooking booth until the set "Move In" time for your heat. This will be strictly enforced, even if your booth is empty during the previous heat. Any cook caught moving into his / her booth prior to the set time will be disqualified.
10. When your heat is finished and jambalaya is turned in, you will have 30 minutes from your heats "Turn-in Time" to remove your equipment from your booth **AND move your vehicle** to allow the next heat to move in and set up. This will be strictly enforced, and any cook who has not vacated his/her booth and moved their vehicles after 30 minutes, will be subject to disqualification from the cooking contest. Cooks must enter **Lamar Dixon Expo grounds thru the Ashland Road entrance.**
11. **Only** cooks and helpers are allowed in the cooking area. This rule will be strictly enforced. There will be places on the other side of the barricades for tents and chairs.
12. No cooks or helpers will be allowed in the vicinity of the Judging Area.

13. Trash barrels are provided to dispose of all trash. It is **your responsibility** to leave your cooking area clean and free of trash for the next contestant.
  14. Grease containers will be provided for used cooking oil. Absolutely **NO** cooking oil is to be poured on the ground or in drains. **NO** used cooking oil is allowed to be used in any contest at the Jambalaya Festival.
  15. **No hand sampling from pots.**
  16. Cooking contest format will be as follows:
    - There will be 7 preliminary heats which will consist of no more than 16 cooks each and 1 heat (Heat #6) which will consist of no more than 13 cooks. Heats 1 thru 4 will be held on Friday, and Heats 5 thru 7 will be held on Saturday. **\*\*The 32 Top Scoring cooks from the 7 preliminary heats will be chosen to compete in 2 semi-final heats. The announcement of the semi-finalists will take place on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the last preliminary heat and the Champ of Champs competition.**
    - The two semi-finalist heats will be held Sunday morning with 16 cooks in each heat. The top 12 scoring cooks from the semi-final heats will be picked to compete in the final heat. The announcement of finalists will take place immediately following the last semi-final heat (once judging is complete.)
    - 12 finalists will compete Sunday afternoon to obtain the title of **WORLD CHAMPION JAMBALAYA COOK.**
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**Should you be chosen as the World Champion Cook you must abide by the following rules:**

- You will cook for many different events around our state and parish. When you attend events during your year as World Champion you are a representative of the Jambalaya Festival Association and will be required to wear our standard royal blue JFA shirt. The Champ and his helper will be given two shirts each. Additional shirts/caps may be purchased at your own expense.
  - The Champion Cook is required to cook **THREE** times during his reigning year for free. Thereafter, he/she will be paid the appropriate cook fee and propane allowance, based on approved JFA reimbursement fees.
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**\*\*** In the event of inclement weather on either Friday or Saturday, the JFA Executive Board will meet with the Judging Panel and determine whether the inclement weather was/is severe enough to place those, who were cooking at the time the inclement weather was present, at a competitive disadvantage. In the event it is determined the inclement weather caused a competitive disadvantage, then instead of taking the top 32 scores out of the 7 heats, the semi-finalists will be picked by taking the top 25% (rounded down to the nearest whole number) of scores from the Heat(s) that were deemed to have been disadvantaged due to weather. The remaining semi-finalists will be taken from the rest of the field as outlined in the following scenarios.

If it is determined that the weather did not cause a competitive disadvantage, then the selection of semi-finalists will take place as described in rule #16 above. In either case, semi-finalists will be announced on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the last preliminary heat and Champ of Champs competition.

**SCENARIO 1:**

Heat 3 on Friday experiences severe weather which is deemed to have put those cooks at a disadvantage. Heat 3 consists of (8) cooks. Semi-finalists will be chosen as follows:

- Top 25% which equals two (2) cooks from Heat 3.
- Top thirty (30) cooks from all remaining heats.

**SCENARIO 2:**

Heat 3 on Friday experiences light rain that is deemed not to have put those cooks at a disadvantage, the weather worsens and Heat 4 is deemed to have been at a disadvantage. Also, Heat 7 on Saturday experiences a thunderstorm which is deemed to have put those cooks at a disadvantage.

Heat 3 has (8) cooks, heat 4 has (12) cooks, heat 7 has (11) cooks.... Semi-finalists will be picked as follows:

- Top 25% which equals three (3) cooks from Heat 4.
- Top 25% which equals (2.75) or two (2) cooks from Heat 7. (Rounded down to 2.)

Top twenty-seven (27) cooks from all remaining heats (including Heat 3.)

**GOOD LUCK! HAVE FUN! BE SAFE!**