



Rules and Regulations

Thursday, March 12, 2026
Lake Charles Event Center
Circle Drive

Teams can arrive beginning at 9 am

Teams will be permitted to drive to spot and drop off, but no parking next to cooking spots

Samples due to judges station between 3:50 - 4:15 pm

Public event with live music begins at 5 pm

COOKING TEAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

EVENT DAY SUPPLIES

NEW LOCATION

This years Battle for the Paddle will take place at the Lake Charles Event Center in the Circle Drive. Please refer to the map on last page for layout.

UNITED WAY WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

- A 10 x 10 area for your team to cook in

TEAMS MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

- 10ft x 10ft tent if desired– no larger.
- Each cooking team is responsible for providing their own containers to dispose of their grease. Those grease containers will have to be taken back with you at the end of the night. United Way will not have grease drums. Do not pour grease in the city drains, trash receptacles or bathroom facilities.
- Any supplies you will need to cook, set up, etc.
- Water will not be provided, and all teams should bring the appropriate amount of water needed.
- In addition, teams will not have access to power on site. If power is needed, please bring a generator that can fit in your allotted space.
- Each team must have fire extinguishers present at their site.
- Supplies necessary to give samples (sample cups, sporks, napkins, serving gloves).

COOKING TEAM LOCATION SELECTION

- Spots (locations) will be selected at the virtual Cooking Team Leader's Meeting. The presenting sponsor, reserves the right to select the first cooking team location, followed by other sponsors (VIP, Entertainment, Lunch, Green, Orange, White levels based on sponsorship amount). Team Entry locations will be determined by lottery after all other sponsors have selected their locations. Companies that have multiple teams (one per company location) can pick for all locations at the same time.

EQUIPMENT & TEAM SPECIFICATIONS

- Teams are required to cook a minimum of **5 gallons of jambalaya or pastalaya. (approx 150 servings)**
- Maximum of 8 individual members per team.

JAMBALAYA & PASTALAYA INGREDIENT SPECIFICATIONS

- Each team must supply all necessary supplies and ingredients needed to successfully prepare the Jambalaya or Pastalaya. Only the following meats are allowed in any combination: pork, chicken and/or any kind of sausage. **ABSOLUTELY NO SEAFOOD!** A team will be disqualified from the competition if seafood is used.
- No par-boiled rice is allowed. All food must be prepared and cooked on site; vegetables and meats can be pre-cut prior to the event. No desserts or sides are needed.

COOKING TEAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

HEALTH CODE AND LIABILITY

- A health inspector will be on site the day of the event. All teams are to keep pots covered when not cooking/serving and keep area clean. Teams are to use serving gloves and keep serving utensils clean/covered.
- Cooking team (every member) must sign a participation/liability in order to participate in the event. Forms will be emailed to the team captains prior to the event.
- Each tent must have a fire extinguisher on site.

JUDGING & AWARDS

JUDGING INFORMATION

- Each team will receive a designated container that will be used to collect the jambalaya or pastalaya sample. This container will be handed out on the day of the event and must be used when submitting the sample.
- Samples are due to the judging station between 3:50 – 4:15 p.m. No samples will be accepted after 4:15 p.m. The criteria for judging will be reviewed at the Cooking Team Leaders' Meeting. The samples are completely anonymous, and the judges will be isolated from the teams.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- People's Choice Tickets will be picked up every 30 minutes starting at 5:00 p.m.
- Last Pick up for People's Choice Tickets will be at 7:00 p.m.

AWARDS

- Awards for **Best Jambalaya** will be presented to the First Place, Second Place and Third Place
- Awards for **Best Pastalaya** will be presented to the First Place, Second Place, Third Place and
- Awards for **People's Choice** will be presented to Jambalaya and Pastalaya.
- Award for **Most Festive Team Decor** (tent area)
- Award for **Most Festive Costume** (open to the public)



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