



Saturday, April 26, 2025  
**GUIDELINES &  
RULES**

**PLEASE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY – THIS HAS BEEN REVISED FROM THE ORIGINAL VERSION  
AND WILL ACT AS THE OFFICIAL GUIDELINES & RULES – SIGN AND RETURN.**

*These rules must be understood and followed by all participants. The Mississippi Coast Coliseum reserves the right to amend these rules without notice.*

- 1) The Cook-Off is open to amateurs and professionals, but there will be no division of these categories in judging.
- 2) A total of **30 teams** will be accepted for the competition. Entry is based on a first-paid, first-entered basis.
- 3) The entry fee is \$75.00 per team. The entry fee is non-refundable and must be paid with the submission of the application.
- 4) **Booth locations will be assigned on a lottery draw. A random selection will be made for booth locations.**
- 5) The entry fee includes (1) 10'x10' space, serving plates for the People's Tasting, judging presentation container, limited water & drains (shared), and limited electricity (if requested).
- 6) Teams must furnish their booth's own cooking utensils, ice, crawfish, equipment, tent (if desired), and decorations. Teams may supply their own decorated bowls to serve their crawfish to the public if they wish.
- 7) **TEAM CREDENTIALS:** Each team may consist of up to four (4) members. The team captain will receive four general admission passes for entry into the festival, four wristbands for entry into the competition area, and **Two (2) Parking Passes** per team.
- 8) Teams will be allowed to set up beginning at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Vehicles will be allowed on the festival grounds for unloading but **must be moved into the general parking lot by 10:00 am. This will be strictly enforced.**
- 9) **GUEST WRISTBANDS:** Team guest wristbands can be pre-purchased. **Cook-Off team guests are responsible for their festival admission tickets and tasting wristbands.**
- 10) **Team guests who have not pre-purchased will be permitted into the Cook-Off area until 12:30 PM. At that time, guests without tickets will be escorted out to the main festival entrance.** Ticket booths will open early for cook-off guests beginning @ 12 pm, located on the north side of the arena (opposite the cook-off area). Guest must purchase their festival admission tickets to return to the grounds. Security will escort guests back on the grounds early (before the public) to purchase tasting wristbands before joining their teams again.
- 11) The competition area will be barricaded off. Team members and team guests must wear a wristband for entry. The public will purchase tasting tickets outside the competition area the day of the event and will allow the bearer to view the contestant's booth, receive one "plate" from each team to

- sample their recipe, and then cast their vote on the people's choice award.
- 12) Teams may purchase their crawfish from an outside vendor of their choice OR MCCC/Quality Seafood on-site that morning at market rate. To purchase on-site, you must indicate that intention on the application form. **For the 2025 cook-off (1) sack of crawfish will be provided to each team by the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. A minimum of two (2) 30-pound sacks must be cooked for the competition.** You are free to cook more if you would like.
  - 13) Teams can add corn, potatoes, and other ingredients for cooking and for serving to the public and judges if they wish.
  - 14) **COMBING PEOPLE CHOICE VOTES WITH OTHER TEAMS WILL CAUSE BOTH TEAMS TO BE DISQUALIFIED. ALL VOTING PACKETS MUST BE TURNED IN TO COOK-OFF OFFICIALS, EVEN IF EMPTY**
  - 15) The Judges' scoring will be based only on the crawfish's appearance, firmness/ease of peeling, and taste. Scoring is on a scale of 1-10 but is weighted as follows:  
**Appearance - 25%**  
**Firmness/Ease of peeling - 30%**  
**Taste – 45%**
  - 16) All decisions of the judges are final.
  - 17) Judging will begin at 12:45 pm and the last teams at 2:45 pm. Time slots will be randomly selected at the captain's meeting. Teams must have their plate ready at that time selected or face disqualification. **Captain's meeting will take place at 9:00 AM, in the lobby outside of the Admin Offices.**
  - 18) Teams are responsible for maintaining clean and safe boiling and serving areas. Propane tanks must be in good working order and within code. **Team PA systems, bullhorns, and loudspeakers are not permitted.** The Coliseum will provide house crawfish cookin' music for all to enjoy until the first talent act begins on Mainstage.
  - 19) Contestants may bring in **NO MORE THAN 1 case** (24 beers) of teams' choice of alcoholic beverage for their team's consumption ONLY (ages 21 and older). One single cooler will be allowed in the boiling area only. **Coolers must be returned to team members' vehicles when the competition is over.** Teams are prohibited from distributing beer or other alcoholic beverages to the public. **Violation of this policy will result in immediate disqualification from the competition. Coolers will be checked by security.**
  - 20) **No crawfish shall be cooked later than 3:30 pm.**
  - 21) \$4,000 in cash prizes will be awarded in two categories (Judges' and People's Choice). The cash prizes will be:  
\$1,200 / \$800 in the Judges Category and **\$1,200 / \$800** in for the Peoples' Choice Award!
  - 22) A Spirit Award will be presented to the team with the best booth design, cooking team attire, and team spirit, as determined by the Cook-Off sponsor, Sparklight.
  - 23) MCCC will make a standard sign identifying the team's name, but teams may also display banners at their booth identifying their team or sponsors. Getting a corporate sponsor is a great way to offset some costs and provide valuable exposure for the sponsor. Sponsors may be the choice of the team. However, this is a family event, and if it is offensive, racist, etc., you will be asked to remove such logos/items from display by the Cook-Off Manager.
  - 24) Teams may put sponsor materials on the tables or at their booth for the public to view; discuss this with Cook-Off Manager before the event date so that it is not perceived as an inducement. No couponing allowed. Teams may **NOT** sell any items to the public.
  - 25) The Mississippi Coast Coliseum reserves the right to amend these rules without notice.

We, the undersigned persons of full age (18 or over) and a majority as participants in the CRAWFISH MUSIC FESTIVAL COOK-OFF, do hereby agree to hold the MS COAST COLISEUM AND CONVENTION CENTER, CRAWFISH MUSIC FESTIVAL CRAWFISH COOK-OFF, its board members, and employees free and harmless from any and all liability, including, but not limited to, all claims, losses, actions, and judgments for damages or injury to persons or property which could or might arise as a result of or in connection with the MS COAST COLISEUM AND CONVENTION CENTER CRAWFISH COOKOFF to be held at MS COAST COLISEUM, BILOXI, MS, April 26, 2024, including acts, conducts, things, commissions, or omission relating to our participating.

We also agree to abide by the rules and regulations listed in the Crawfish Cook-off Rules, which have been provided to us.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We request \_\_\_\_\_ sacks of crawfish.

Team Captain

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members

1. Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_