

2026 Tampa Pig Jig BBQ Competition Rules & Information

BBQ COMPETITION & JUDGING

Competition will consist of 4 main categories:

1. Wild Card – Anything goes - get creative!
2. Butt
3. Ribs
4. Brisket

- Teams can participate in any or all categories and each team cooks their own meat.
- A panel of Culinary + Local Celebrity judges award trophies to the **Top 3 teams in each category above**, along with a **Top 3 overall with Grand Champion** awarded to the best overall team.
- Judging is based on the following criteria:
 - o Presentation
 - o Taste & Flavor
 - o Tenderness & Texture
- Scores range from 1 to a high of 10 in 0.5 point increments for each category, most points wins.
- The contestant with the most *aggregate* points in all categories is crowned Grand Champion. In the event of a tie, Wild Card scores act as the tie breaker.

This year's competition will include an ancillary competition for the **Best Use of Bourbon, ft. Penelope Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey**. This ancillary competition does not count towards the Grand Champion score, and is optional to participate but you must opt in in advance so that we can get you the bourbon. Anything goes in this category - get your creative juices (errr... bourbon?) flowing!

- Best Use of Bourbon Judging will be based on the following criteria:
 - o Presentation
 - o Taste & Flavor
 - o Tenderness & Texture
 - o Execution
- Scores range from 1 to a high of 10 in 0.5 point increments, most points wins. In the event of a tie in the Best Use of Bourbon, the Execution score acts as the tie breaker.
- Lastly, we will award a **Top Hog Fundraiser** to the team that raises the most donations via our Peer to Peer platform day of event and a **Pig Jig Spirit Award** for the best decorated tailgate - so even if you're not cooking, you could still be winning!

• Judging begins at 2:00 PM, each category is judged for an hour in total and then we move on to the next category. To make sure that your entry is judged immediately upon turning it in, we assign each team specific times to turn in their items (i.e. 3:20pm, 4:20pm, etc.) and these times are given to you the morning of the competition.

- Best Use of Bourbon: 2:00PM
- Wild Card: 3:00PM
- Ribs: 4:00PM
- Butt: 5:00PM
- Brisket: 6:00PM

NOTE: TEAMS WILL BE ASSIGNED SPECIFIC TURN IN TIMES WITHIN THESE WINDOWS

• No cash sales permitted.

• The earliest Saturday arrival and fire start time is **4:00AM**. NO OVERNIGHT STAY PERMITTED.

• Meat must be raw upon arrival. Uncooked meat must be kept cold prior to cooking.

• Entries may be served sauced or unsauced.

• Each team will be assigned a team number in advance of the event. To insure a double-blind, your team number will need to be written on each entry box you submit – do NOT include your name, company name, or anything else on the box.

• You will be given one extra box just in case you need it. Should you need more space to turn in your wild card entry than the single box typically used, you may elect to use your spare box so that you turn in two boxes for your wild card entry, containing the same entry (presumably putting 3 samples in each). You may ONLY use this extra box if space is needed for your wild card entry, not for any other category.

• Teams should include (6) samples in each of their turn in boxes. **All samples should be served composed, no assembly required.**

PROHIBITED ITEMS

• **NO GLASS CONTAINERS** shall be permitted at any time and all Park rules shall apply.

• **NO ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE PARK. DUE TO CITY CODE**, ANY TEAM FOUND CONSUMING ALCOHOL ON FRIDAY, SUNDAY, OR BRINGING IN ALCOHOL OF ANY KIND WILL HAVE THE ALCOHOL CONFISCATED. **DUE TO PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS, THIS RULE IS STRICTLY ENFORCED.** We do however offer the option to purchase licensed, insured, bartending services and a private custom bar - and the email with this information will come out in early September each year.

WHAT THE EVENT PROVIDES FOR YOU

- The total allotted space for each team/tailgate in the pits is 20' x 20'.
- Teams are provided with a fire extinguisher & plywood to be placed under grills/smokers.
- The lead judge will provide you with the turn in boxes for judging on event day.
- Each team will be provided a tailgate setup that includes two (2) 10'X10' pop up tents, two (2) 6' tables, five (5) tailgate chairs, one (1) empty 120qt cooler and a 42" TV complete with dish set up unless you've otherwise discussed in writing with our team at Knightcap Events.
- If you are participating in the Best Use of Bourbon category, we will provide you a bottle of Bourbon in advance of the event so that you have time to practice your entry.

WHAT YOU MUST PROVIDE

- Each BBQ team shall be permitted to bring one (1) chef and one (1) sous chef. You must give these Chefs tickets from your sponsorship allotment (does not matter if you give them Premium or GA)
- Teams are responsible for providing their own grill, equipment, utensils, meat, etc.
- Each team **MUST** place plywood under ALL of their smoker/grills to prevent damage to the park as well as under all generators.
- NO house power or water will be provided. Generators are permitted.
- Each team shall be allowed to bring one cooler with meat & other supplies.
- **ALL COOLERS & SUPPLIES MUST ARRIVE PRIOR TO 7:00 AM. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Grill and extension cords, power, if necessary.
- Everything required to cook and serve the judges (meat, cooking ingredients, utensils, plates, prep tables, etc.)
- Sanitary items (gloves, wipes, napkins, etc.)
- Cooler with ice, if necessary, to store cooking ingredients
- Teams **MUST** clean up their areas after load in and discard their trash, including plywood and charcoal.

LOAD IN/OUT AND SITE SET UP

- Due to Park logistics, there will be individually scheduled load in times on Thursday and Friday prior to the event and load out times for Sunday post event. These schedules will be distributed two weeks in advance of the event and the park will be monitored by security.
- You must adhere to all electrical, fire and other applicable Park rules. Styrofoam has been banned in city parks, do not bring ANY Styrofoam to the event.
- The BBQ Pit is NOT sectioned off and will be accessible to all event attendees.
- Buildouts including vertical, decking, scaffolding, ladders, or raise platforms are prohibited.
- You are **PROHIBITED** from bringing any tent larger than a 10'x10' and you **MUST** stay within your allowed 20'x20' space - there are no exceptions.

WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I understand that by attending Tampa Pig Jig and participating in a tailgate and barbecue competition that I will expose those that attend using my allowed tickets ("Attendees") to the normal risks of injury or harm associated with cooking, outdoor musical events, and social activities in general. I hereby fully and forever release, discharge, and agree not to sue Tampa Pig Jig or HopeWill Foundation, Inc., or any of its affiliates, employees, representatives, board members, contractors, volunteers, or successors, jointly or severally, (the "Tampa Pig Jig Releasees") for any and all claims, causes of action or liability for any injury, loss or damage sustained or incurred by Attendees or to Attendees' property arising out of or in any way associated with our attendance at or participation in the Tampa Pig Jig including, but not limited to, death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind which may hereafter accrue to me or my traveling to and from this event. I understand and agree that this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk shall be binding upon the heirs, assigns and any personal entity acting upon any Attendees behalf. I have read the above items of the Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk, understand them, agree to abide by them, and hereby acknowledge that I understand this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk. I will also provide a copy of this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk to all Attendees. Tampa Pig Jig and/or HopeWill Foundation, Inc. do not provide liability insurance for the protection of individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, spectators, or others who may participate in the Tampa Pig Jig. This release extends and applies to, and also covers and includes, all unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated and unsuspected injuries, damages, loss and liability and the consequences thereof, as well as those now disclosed and known to exist. I agree that this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk shall be construed and interpreted according to the law of the State of Florida and that the release and agree that the waiver of liability herein shall be construed to the maximum allowed by such law. The provisions of any state, federal, local or territorial law or state providing substance that releases shall not extend to claims, demands, injuries, or damages which are known or unsuspected to exist at this time, to the person executing such release, are hereby expressly waived. If any portion of this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full legal force and effect. I further agree that any action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to my participation in the Tampa Pig Jig must be brought in State Court in Hillsborough County, Florida. I hereby agree on behalf of my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to indemnify the Tampa Pig Jig Releasees from any and all actions, causes of actions, claims and demands for, upon or by reason of any damage, loss or injury, which hereafter may be sustained by participating in the Tampa Pig Jig. It is further understood and agreed that said participation in the Tampa Pig Jig is not to be construed as an admission of any liability and acceptance of assumption of responsibility by the Tampa Pig Jig Releasees for all damages and expenses for which the Tampa Pig Jig Releasees become liable as a result of any alleged act of the Attendees. I state that I have read this Waiver, Release of Liability and Express Assumption of Risk and understand its contents and sign this willingly as my own free act and on behalf of all Attendees.