

Official Rules and Regulations



DEFINITION

HOMESTYLE CHILI is defined by the International Chili Society as a combination of beans cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. Meat is allowed but not required.

COOKING

- Competition Homestyle chili must be made from scratch on site.
- Meat may be treated, pre-cut or ground but **MAY NOT BE PRE-COOKED** in any manner.
- Each contestant must prepare a minimum of two gallons of chili including 32 ounces for judging.
- A Cook's Meeting will be held at the cookoff prior to the actual cooking period.
- The cooking period will be 3 hours. The exact starting and ending times of the cooking period will be announced prior to the event. Cooking during the entire cooking period is at the discretion of the contestant.
- Each contestant will be assigned a contestant's number by the Chief Scorekeeper. An official 32 ounce ICS judging cup will be provided to each contestant. Each contestant will be responsible for verifying that the number on the bottom of their judging cup matches their assigned contestant number.
- At the end of the cooking period, each contestant will fill their judging cup to 1" from the top of the cup and deliver it to the judging area.
- After the judging cup has been turned in, the contestants will serve their Homestyle chili to the public in 2 oz. sampling cups furnished by XDI.

MEMBERSHIP

- XDI will purchase an ICS Homestyle Membership for the Chief Cook of each credit union chili team.
- ICS Homestyle members are not permitted to cook in any other category of ICS sanctioned events.
- The Chief Cook for each credit union chili team must be 18 or older.

JUDGING

- The Xpress Data, Inc.'s Credit Union Chili Challenge will be judged by chili lovers invited by XDI.
- Judges will be told that they should vote for their favorite chili based on taste (good chili flavor, not too hot or too mild), texture of the meat (not too tough or too mushy), consistency (not too thick or too thin), and appearance (does it look appetizing).
- Blind judging procedures will be used in determining the winners, however, true blind judging of Homestyle chili can sometimes be problematic because the uniqueness of some ingredients could make a particular chili recognizable.
- General instructions regarding the mechanics of the judging process will be given at the Judge's Meeting, i.e. one spoon for each taste, cleanse the palate between each taste, no talking about the chili during the judging, etc.
- No known relative of a participating cook will be allowed to judge or keep score at this cookoff.

AWARDS

- Trophies and prize money will be awarded for 1st through 5th Place Chili, 1st through 3rd Place People's Choice, Best Booth decoration and Best Team Spirit. All monetary prizes will be donated to charities selected by the winners.
- The first place winner of Xpress Data, Inc.'s Credit Union Chili Challenge will be qualified to participate in the 2018 ICS World's Championship Homestyle Chili Cookoff. For more information on this event, visit www.chilicookoff.com. Once qualified, an ICS Homestyle Division member cannot participate in any other ICS sanctioned Homestyle event prior to the ICS 2018 World's Championship Homestyle Chili Cookoff.