

2026 RULES FOR TERLINGUA VERY LAST CHANCE CHILI COOKOFF
Only Cooks NOT qualified for the current OTICCC Championship may enter.

1. The Head cook must register (name, address and e-mail or phone #) to enter the chili competition (only one cup can be submitted per registered cook.) See schedule of events for registration times. Registration begins on Thursday but due to cooks losing or damaging cups, they will not be handed out until Friday's registration time. The preregistered cooks will form a separate line on Friday to pick up and initial the registration sheet, thus speeding up that process.
2. The Head cook will receive their judging cup and initial the registration sheet for receipt. Remove the numbered ticket from the cup, write your name on the back of the ticket. Put it in a safe place since the winners will be announced by ticket numbers. The matching ticket must be presented to claim the award.
3. Cooks must not "mark" cup in any way. If cup is damaged, a replacement can be obtained from Headquarters by turning in the damaged cup and numbered ticket.
4. Cooks must be at least 18 years old to enter a cookoff.

B. PREPARING CHILI

1. Chili must be cooked on site the day of the cookoff from scratch. "Scratch" means starting with raw meat and using regular spices. "Scratch" means starting with raw meat and spices. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes are NOT permitted.
2. Chili must be prepared out in the open in as sanitary a manner as possible.
3. No beans, pasta, rice or other similar items are allowed.
4. The head cook must prepare the chili to be judged.

C. TURNING IN CHILI

1. No more than one judging sample can be taken from any one pot.
2. Each cook may turn in only one cup of chili.
3. At turn-in time, fill your cup as designated at the Cooks Meeting (or leave at least 1 inch head space) and take it to the Cookoff Headquarters. Late cups will not be accepted.
4. Your chili will be judged on AROMA, CONSISTENCY, RED COLOR, TASTE and AFTERTASTE.

OTICCC Specific Rule

No cook may participate in another Chili Championship on the same day. Breaking this rule will result in a lifetime ban from competing at OTICCC.

A full copy of Tolbert rules can be found on their website,

