



2025

Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate Smokedown

BBQ Competition

Team Handbook

&

Contest Rules

Mailing Address:

FWSSS
PO Box 17005
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Event Location:

Fort Worth Stockyards
140 E. Exchange Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 761

Website: www.syndicatesmokedown.com / **Email:** info@syndicatesmokedown.com

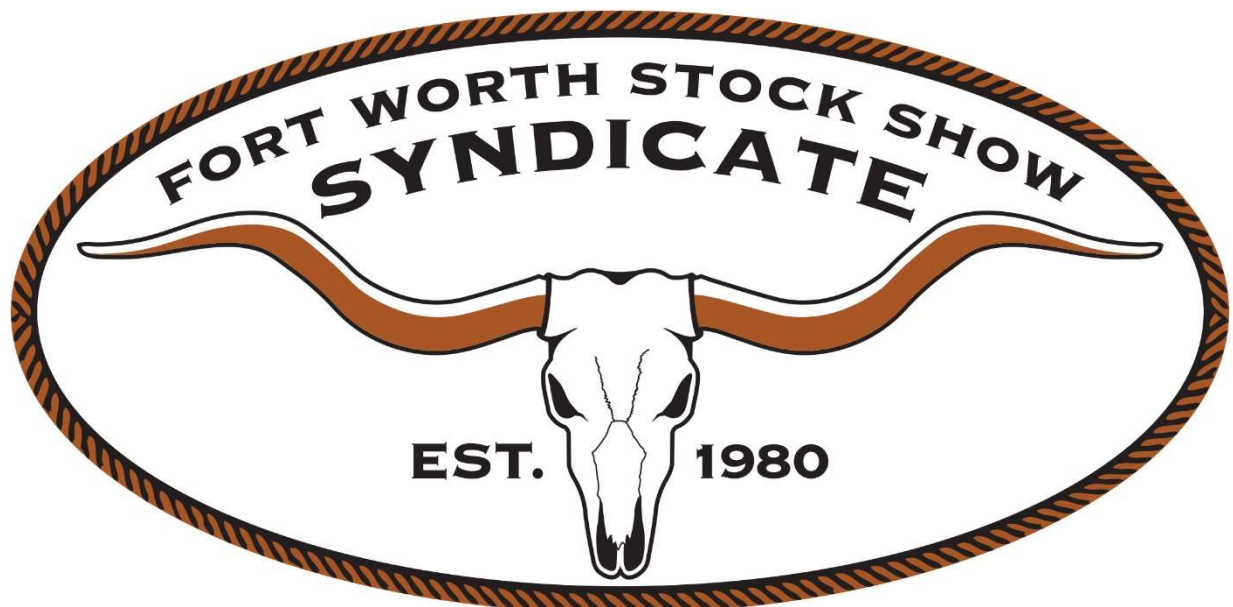
Table of Contents

Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate Mission Statement.....	3
Welcome Statement.....	4
Event Information.....	5
Registration Information.....	6
General Information.....	6
Team Space Guidelines, Regulation and Safety Requirements.....	6
General Information.....	6
Team Spaces.....	6
Health and Food Safety.....	7
Vehicles, Trailers and RV’s.....	7
Electricity and Generators.....	7
Fire Extinguishers.....	8
Open Flames and Equipment.....	8
Music and Sound Systems.....	8
Alcohol.....	8
General Information.....	8
Inappropriate Behavior.....	8
Competition Rules and Information.....	9
General Information.....	9
Mandatory Chief Cook Meeting.....	9
Competition Categories.....	9
Turn-In Times.....	9
Awards.....	10
Appendix A – Schedule of Events.....	11
Appendix B – IBCA Rules.....	14
Appendix C – Indemnification Form.....	22

Our Mission

Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate

Our mission is to provide a means for agricultural youth to further their education and vocational opportunities; thus, helping to maintain the United States' position as the global agricultural leader.





Welcome Statement

Dear Competitors,

The Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate welcomes you and thanks you for your participation in the third annual FWSSS Smokedown which will benefit the Jim Bob Norman Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are awarded to Texas 4-H and FFA students who receive an education in agriculture. Texas leads the nation with over 245,000 farm and ranch operations. The average size of these operations is 530 acres, but these farms and ranches total over 130 million acres. One out of every seven Texans work in an agriculture related job.

Please take the time to read our handbook to become familiar with the rules and information regarding the event. Also, in the handbook is the schedule of events, the official rules from the IBCA and the required indemnification form.

If you know of other potential competitors, please direct them to our website for further information (www.synidcatesmokedown.com). We invite all kinds of competitors to participate and enjoy the event and the entertainment, this is **Fort Worth's Premiere BBQ Competition**.

Your participation in our event and its success will play a role in supporting the future of agriculture in Texas! The Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate thanks you for your support!

Best of Luck,

Andy Eldridge – Event Chair

FWSSS Smokedown Contact Information & Event Information

General Contact Information

info@syndicatesmokedown.com

Event Location

Fort Worth Stockyards
140 E. Exchange Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76164

Date of Competition

April 12th, 2025

Open to the Public

April 12th, 2025
11:30 am – 10:30 pm

Move-In Date & Time

April 11th, 2025
10AM – 8PM

The Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate and the International Barbeque Cookers Association (IBCA) retain the right to modify these rules and regulations at any time with or without notice to participants.

I. Registration Information

A. General Information

- a. Teams can register through the online registration system at www.syndicatesmokedown.com
- b. The entry fee for each space is \$350. Payment must be submitted at the time of registration.
- c. Pre-registration deadline is April 9, 2025.
- d. Pre-registration is preferred.
- e. Onsite registration will be closed at 4:00pm on Wednesday April 9, 2025.
- f. Entry fees are non-refundable.
- g. Each team requires a unique registration and team name.
 - i. Each team will consist of a (1) Chief Cook and up to (4) Assistant Cooks.
- h. A Chief Cook may not cook for multiple teams.
- i. Each team must have their own pit.
- j. Prize money will be issued on the day of the event to the Chief Cook of the winning teams.
- k. The FWSSS Smokedown committee reserves the right to decline team names.
- l. All winners must complete a W-9 in order to receive prize money.
- m. All Team Members must complete an Indemnification and Release Form at the time of on-site registration (Appendix C).

II. Team Space Guidelines, Regulation and Safety Requirements

A. General Information

- a. No pets are allowed at the venue; however, service animals will be allowed.
- b. Drones are prohibited.
- c. Failure to comply with rules and safety requirements will result and disqualification and removal from the property.

B. Team Spaces

- a. Spaces will be assigned by the FWSSS Smokedown Committee.
- b. FWSSS Smokedown committee members with ALL ACCESS badges and event security shall always have access to team spaces.
- c. Spaces will be approximately 20 feet by 40 feet.
- d. Spaces may be located on gravel, grass or asphalt.
- e. If tents are used, they must be anchored in a manner that will secure the tent.
- f. Each team must always display their space number and team name. This will be provided at the time of on-site registration.
- g. Teams must keep all activities within their designated space and not in aisles.
- h. Each team is responsible for the trash and cleanup of their designated space and left in the same condition as when moved in.
- i. Each team is required to have at least one trash barrel per space.

- j. Waste items must be placed in the appropriated containers for disposal.
 - i. Ash and coals in the designated Ash Dumpster
 - ii. Trash in the Trash Dumpster
 - iii. Wastewater (Grey Water) in the Wastewater Container
- k. Spaces are available to move in on April 11th starting at 10:00 am.
- l. Participants must be moved in by 8:00 pm on April 11th.
- m. Spaces must be vacated by 12:00 pm on April 13th.

C. Health and Food Safety

- a. These are standard health department guidelines. We suggest these are followed, but not required since competitors are not required to serve the public.
- b. Handwashing Station
 - i. Soap, Towels and Water Dispenser
- c. Dishwashing Station
 - i. 3 Basin or Sink setup: Wash-Rinse-Sanitize
- d. Proper Food Temperatures
 - i. Please observe the proper food temperatures for serving
 1. Raw Chicken – 165 F or greater
 2. Raw Pork and Whole Beef – 145 F or greater
 3. Hot Holding – 135 F or greater
 4. Cold Holding – 41 F or less

D. Vehicles, Trailers and RV's

- a. Golf carts, ATV's and any other motorized vehicles are prohibited in the competition area.
- b. Team and equipment move in will start on Friday, April 11th at 10:00 am and end on Friday, April 11th at 8:00 pm. All teams and equipment must be removed from the premises by 12:00 pm on Sunday, April 13th.
- c. RV's are permitted.
- d. RV's must be parked in the RV designated area.
- e. If you require the RV to be in your competition space, please notify Syndicate Smokedown at info@syndicatesmokedown.com, we will try to accommodate each request.
- f. RV Hookups, Utilities or Waste Management Services are NOT available.
- g. RV's can be moved in starting on Friday, April 11th starting at 10:00 am and must be removed from the premises by 12:00 pm on Sunday, April 13th.

E. Electricity and Generators

- a. No electricity will be provided.
- b. One (1) Generator is allowed in each space.
- c. Generators shall be isolated from the public.
- d. Gasoline is not to be stored by the generator or food preparation areas.

- F. Fire Extinguishers
 - a. A minimum of One (1) Fire Extinguisher is required for each space.
 - b. Fire extinguishers must have been inspected and tagged within one year of event date.
 - c. Fire extinguishers must be accessible.
 - G. Open Flames and Equipment
 - a. Ground fires are strictly prohibited.
 - b. BBQ pits shall not be placed within 10 feet of combustible materials.
 - c. BBQ pits shall not be placed under any tents or covers.
 - d. Propane tanks must always be properly secured to prevent it from falling or tipping. Propane tanks must be at least 10 feet from a door or window of a building.
 - e. ALL ashes must be placed in the designated ash dumpster provided by the FWSSS Smokedown committee.
 - H. Music and Sound Systems
 - a. Music and sound systems will be allowed during move in on Friday, April 11th.
 - b. Quiet time will run from 10:00pm until 8:00 am each day. This will require the music level to be such the music cannot be heard outside of the team's space.
 - c. Music and sound systems are NOT allowed during the time the event is open to the public; Saturday, April 12th 11:30 am until 10:30 pm.
 - d. The FWSSS Smokedown committee will have final say on what is acceptable music levels.
- III. Alcohol
- A. General Information
 - a. Teams may not distribute any kind of alcohol to the public.
 - b. Keg beer is prohibited.
 - c. All participants and patrons must be 21 years of age in order to consume alcohol.
 - B. Inappropriate Behavior
 - a. Inappropriate behavior, as deemed by the FWSSS Smokedown committee, will not be tolerated and may result in the removal from the premises.
- IV. Competition Rules and Information
- A. General Information
 - a. The competition will follow the rules established by the International Barbeque Cookers Association (IBCA). Complete Rules in Appendix B.
 - b. Complete Event Schedule of Events in Appendix A.

- c. We encourage you to interact with the public attending the FWSSS Smokedown.
 - d. Each team must have their own pit and unique chief cook.
 - e. The turn-in schedule is subject to change based on number of teams.
- B. Mandatory Chief Cook Meeting
- a. Mandatory Chief Cook Meeting will be at 6:00pm on Friday April 11th. All chief cooks must be present at the meeting. The competition officially starts after the meeting.
- C. Competition Categories
- a. The competitors will be required to compete in three categories with one optional category.
 - i. Chicken
 - ii. Pork Spare Ribs
 - iii. Brisket
- D. Turn-In Times
- a. Chicken – 12:00pm
 - b. Pork Spare Ribs – 1:30pm
 - c. Brisket – 3:00pm
- E. Awards
- a. Ten places will be awarded in the competition of Chicken, Pork Spare Ribs and Brisket.
 - b. A Grand Champion will be named based on points awarded for Chicken, Pork Spare Ribs and Brisket.
 - c. Winners will be announced on stage around 5:00 pm.

- d. Prize pool
 - i. Grand Champion - \$5,000 & Belt Buckle
 - ii. Reserve Champion - \$1,000 & Belt Buckle
 - iii. Chicken
 - 1. First Place - \$1,500 & Trophy
 - 2. Second Place - \$1,000 & Trophy
 - 3. Third Place - \$750 & Trophy
 - 4. Fourth Place - \$400
 - 5. Fifth Place - \$250
 - 6. Sixth Place - \$200
 - 7. Seventh Place - \$175
 - 8. Eighth Place - \$150
 - 9. Ninth Place - \$125
 - 10. Tenth Place - \$100
 - iv. Pork Spare Ribs
 - 1. First Place - \$1,500 & Trophy
 - 2. Second Place - \$1,000 & Trophy
 - 3. Third Place - \$750 & Trophy
 - 4. Fourth Place - \$400
 - 5. Fifth Place - \$250
 - 6. Sixth Place - \$200
 - 7. Seventh Place - \$175
 - 8. Eighth Place - \$150
 - 9. Ninth Place - \$125
 - 10. Tenth Place - \$100
 - v. Brisket
 - 1. First Place - \$1,500 & Trophy
 - 2. Second Place - \$1,000 & Trophy
 - 3. Third Place - \$750 & Trophy
 - 4. Fourth Place - \$450
 - 5. Fifth Place - \$250
 - 6. Sixth Place - \$200
 - 7. Seventh Place - \$175
 - 8. Eighth Place - \$150
 - 9. Ninth Place - \$125
 - 10. Tenth Place - \$100

Appendix A

Schedule of Events

Friday April 11, 2025

10:00 am	Move-In and Registration Open
6:00 pm	Mandatory Chief Cook Meeting
8:00 pm	Move-In and Registration Closes
10:00 pm	Quiet Hours Begin

Saturday April 12, 2025

11:30 am	Event Opens to the Public
12:00 pm	Chicken Turn-In
1:30 pm	Pork Spare Rib Turn-In
3:00 pm	Brisket Turn-In
5:00 pm	Competition Results on the Stage
10:30 pm	Event Close
11:00 pm	Doors Close

Sunday April 13, 2025

12:00 pm	Move-Out Must Be Completed
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*Schedule subject to change.

Appendix B

Link to IBCA Rules



Appendix C

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for being allowed entry into and participation in the activity known as **The Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate Smokedown (the "Activity")** associated with the Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate ("FWSSS"), the undersigned hereby enter into this RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") as of the date set forth below.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS:** The undersigned recognizes and understands that there are risks associated with his/her participation in the Activities including, but not limited to, bodily injury or death to persons and theft, damage or destruction to property. The undersigned further acknowledges and understands that he/she will be held liable and responsible for any and all damage to persons, livestock, vehicles, property and/or improvements to property that is caused by him/her and/or any persons (including, minors) under his/her care and control, and that arise out of or are related to the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities.
2. **RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:** The undersigned hereby RELEASES, ACQUITS AND FOREVER DISCHARGES FWSSS, its subsidiaries and affiliates and its and their present and former directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives and the respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns (collectively, the "FWSSS Parties" or individually, an "FWSSS Party") from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death and/or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims") relating to or arising out of any negligent acts in connection with the participant's entry into and participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the **NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OF THE FWSSS PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS.** Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agrees that the FWSSS Parties shall not be liable to him/her, his/her family, heirs, administrators, executors or assigns for Claims arising from or related to the participant's entry into and participation in the Activities.
3. **AGREEMENT TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS:** **THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE FWSSS PARTIES** from any and all claims, causes of action, suits and/or demands for personal injury, death or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims"), including but not limited to Claims resulting from **THE FWSSS PARTIES' OWN NEGLIGENCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS;** provided, however, that the duty of the undersigned to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the FWSSS Parties shall extend only to Claims arising directly or indirectly from the participant's entry into and participation in the Activities. As used herein, **"INDEMNIFY" means to agree to assume the FWSSS Parties' liability in a situation, thereby relieving them of responsibility and/or reimbursing the FWSSS Parties for Claims asserted against them.**
4. **PHOTOGRAPH/INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned GRANTS PERMISSION to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understands that any such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews may be used by FWSSS for television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed and/or social media. The undersigned agrees to RELEASE and INDEMNIFY FWSSS with respect to any Claims related to the usage of such photographs, videos, recordings and/or interviews by the FWSSS Parties or any media.
5. As further inducement to FWSSS to permit the undersigned's entry into and participation in the Activities, the undersigned represents that he/she thoroughly and completely understands that this is a complete and final release and indemnity agreement, that he/she is freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises or statements made by the FWSSS Parties, or any agent, attorney or other representative of an FWSSS Party has influenced the undersigned in causing him/her to sign this Agreement.
6. The undersigned understands that this Agreement shall be binding on his/her heirs, executors, successors and assigns, that the Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, and that jurisdiction and venue for resolution of any dispute regarding this Agreement shall lie in a Texas State Court in Tarrant County, Texas. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it does not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. The undersigned agrees to the terms and conditions above, and acknowledges receipt of this Agreement.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____