



OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The *Italian Festival of Mississippi* consists of two official cooking categories: **Spaghetti Gravy (blind judged)** and **Pasta with Gravy (onsite judged)**. Contestants must enter both categories with only **one** entry per category allowed. Spaghetti Gravy is defined as the juice exuded by cooking meat and Italian seasonings; also, a sauce made from it.

2. Each contestant/team must supply ALL of his own meat, cooking ingredients, individual cooking devices (portable electric or propane stoves), warmers, utensils, preparation tables, etc. All decorations, tents, chairs, and **flooring (strongly recommended)** are the team's responsibility. The only things provided to the contestants are the cooking area and utilities.

3. **No smoking inside the Expo Building.** No smoke from any source (cookers, warmers, cigarettes, etc.) is allowed inside the building. Smokers and/or BBQ grills must be outside the building.

4. Propane containers must not exceed 20 lbs. or 5 gallons and must have an OPD valve.

5. Only the Chief Cook and five (5) assistants will be provided passes for entrance into the cooking area. The names of these individuals must be listed on the application. All other individuals associated with and/or visiting the cooking team must pay to enter the festival.

6. Each contestant and assistants must comply with all applicable rules/regulations of the Bolivar County Health Department including, but not limited, to the following:

- (a) Meat must be at 40 degrees or less before cooking. Your coolers, with ice, will keep it cold enough.
- (b) After cooking, the meat gravies/entrée must be maintained at 140 degrees or above and covered.
- (c) Cleanliness of the Chief Cook, assistants, and contestant area is required.
- (d) No live animals are allowed.

7. Set-up is **encouraged** to take place on Wednesday, March 10 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, March 11, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Deadline for set-up is noon on Friday, March 12. Each contestant must check-in at the Judging Headquarters inside the Expo Building before unloading items. At this time, cooking area locations are confirmed.

8. Each contestant must cook enough Spaghetti Gravy/ Pasta with Gravy to provide samples to all judges. If you run out of spaghetti gravy/entrée before the judging is completed, you will be disqualified.

9. **JUDGING** Spaghetti Gravy entries will be judged using **blind judging** procedures. The contest will provide each team with two (2) 12 oz. containers identified only by a coded number so that judges do not know which teams they are judging. Four (4) judges sitting at a table will judge 4 to 6 samples independently of one another concentrating on each entry without the team input and can re-taste samples.

Pasta with Gravy, **served with only the pasta of your choice**, entries will be judged using **on-site judging** procedures. Each team is judged by 3 judges, one at a time who stays no more than 15 minutes. No two teams will be judged by the same 3 judges. The teams have the opportunity to "sell" themselves and show off their methods and product. Judges have the opportunity to learn more about the cooking processes and to verify the method of cooking.

Best Decorated will be judged based on creativity, originality, and theme development.

Judging begins at 3:30p.m., Friday, March 12.

10. Cooking contest officials will be available on Saturday, March 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to discuss contest rules and regulations and to answer questions. The official cooking team meeting, with the captain only, will be at 9:00 a.m.

11. It is the responsibility of each contestant to see that the contest area is kept clean and that the area is cleaned and all equipment, supplies, debris, etc. removed from site following the contest. Any space left in disarray or with loose or bundled trash and garbage could disqualify the team from future participation.

12. The Team Captain will be held responsible for the conduct of his team and guests. Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages to be distributed (given away or sold) to the general public by the contestants. The *Italian Festival of Mississippi* committee requests and requires that good taste be used with your conduct as well as your cooking. We want each team to have a good time and we want a good atmosphere for those who attend. **Under-age drinking will not be tolerated.**

13. **CONTESTANTS MAY NOT SELL FOOD.**

14. Contestants are responsible for their cooking area and its contents. Areas should not be left unattended during the hours the festival is open. The *Italian Festival of Mississippi* will provide security guards during the hours the building is closed.

15. **MUSIC** If the music in your area becomes too loud or is offensive to your neighbors, you will be asked to turn it down or be disqualified. **NO LIVE BANDS, COMBOS, ETC.** will be allowed in the individual cooking areas at any time during the event. **NO** entertainment (tapes, CDs, singing, etc.) allowed in the team areas during the judging starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 13.

16. All teams must adhere to all electrical, fire, and other city, county, state or federal codes. Each team must have a working dry chemical fire extinguisher in their cooking area. Electricity (110 outlet) will be supplied in each cooking area. **NO** generators are allowed.

17. The *Italian Festival of Mississippi* committee reserves the right to make additional regulations as the situation warrants. Violations of rules and regulations may result in disqualification, expulsion from grounds, and/or disqualification from future participation.

18. Decisions of the *Italian Festival of Mississippi* Cooking Contest Chair and Judges are **FINAL**.

19. **FEES** All teams are required to enter both official cooking categories. Contest fees are based on the **size** of the cooking area. Area Size: 20' X 30' \$150.00

20. The *Italian Festival of Mississippi* committee reserves the right to reject any application. If your application is not accepted, your fees will be refunded by mail. No refunds will be made once you have been accepted into the contest whether you appear or not. Entry fees will be deposited upon acceptance to the contest. All checks should be made payable to the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

21. Applications submitted are not a guaranteed entrance into the contest. Mail applications to:

Italian Festival of Mississippi
Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 490
Cleveland, MS 38732

22. For additional information contact the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce at 662-843-2712 or contact Sam Short, Cooking Contest Chair, at 662-721-8400 or email samshort@deltaland.net

APPLICATION

TEAM NAME

CHIEF COOK

TEAM CAPTAIN

ADDRESS STREET/P. O. BOX

CITY/STATE/ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE (DAY)

(NIGHT)

(CELL)

COOKING CONTEST CATEGORIES

Spaghetti Gravy & Pasta with Gravy

Teams are required to compete in BOTH official cooking categories regardless of area size. Only ONE entry per category.

ENTRY FEES

Indicate number of booth spaces requested.

() 20' x 30' @ \$ 150 per space \$ _____

TOTAL FEES PAID: \$ _____

() yes, we will compete in Best Decorated Area

Make check payable to:
Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce

Please turn over and complete the back side of the application. BOTH sides MUST be completed to be accepted as a valid application.

APPLICATION (continued)

Team Members (all members must be listed):
Maximum of five (5) assistants

Registration:

All teams **must register** with the *Italian Festival of Mississippi* Cooking Contest Chair **before set-up**. Teams are encouraged to set-up on Thursday, March 11, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. **Deadline for set-up is noon, Friday, March 12.**

SPACE IS LIMITED! APPROPRIATE FEES MUST BE RECEIVED WITH APPLICATION NO LATER THAN MARCH 3, 2010.

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ITALIAN FESTIVAL OF MISSISSIPPI.

I AGREE TO ENTER BOTH OFFICIAL CATEGORIES OF SPAGHETTI GRAVY AND PASTA WITH GRAVY.

Chief Cook (Signature required)

Date

Mail application to:
Italian Festival of Mississippi
Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 490
Cleveland, MS 38732



IMPORTANT CONTEST INFORMATION

LOCATION

Bolivar County Expo
Highway 61 North
Cleveland, Mississippi

COOKING AREA

Limited number of spaces
Electricity provided – Water available
No generators

Set-up Times

Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Judging Time

Saturday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in all categories

Schedule of Events

Friday, March 12
4:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Authentic Italian Store
Arts & Crafts
Children’s Activities
Bocce for Bucks

Featured Entertainment
Dr. Zarr’s Amazing Funk Monsters

Saturday, March 13
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Authentic Italian Store
Arts & Crafts
Children’s Activities
Cooking Demonstrations
Spaghetti Eating Contest
Grape Stomping Contest
Bocce Tournament
Italian Cooking Contest
Live Entertainment All Day

Featured Entertainment
Almost Famous

Concessions available both days.



March 12th & 13th, 2010
Bolivar County Expo
Cleveland, MS

Italian Cooking Contest Application

Categories include:

Spaghetti Gravy
Pasta With Gravy
Best Decorated
T-Shirt Competition (optional)