



AMERICAN ROYAL WORLD SERIES OF BARBECUE®

SAUCE CONTEST

APRIL 9, 2026

American Royal World Series of Barbecue® Sauce Contest

Important Dates

- **April 1, 2026** – Online Registration Closes
- **April 3, 2026** – **Submission Arrival Deadline** (entries must be received)
- **April 9, 2026** – Sauce Contest Judging
- **By April 15, 2026** – Results Posted Online

Companies and contestants may not be present during judging. Dates and times are subject to change.

Shipping Instructions

All entries **must arrive by Friday, April 3, 2026.**

Ship To:

American Royal Association
Attn: BBQ Sauce Contest
1701 American Royal Court
Kansas City, MO 64102

SHIPPING TIPS

- Ship early and use protective packaging
- Include a printed copy of your confirmation email in the shipment
- Clearly label boxes with your company name
- The American Royal is not responsible for shipping damage

Sauce Categories

Competitors may enter any number of sauces, but **each sauce may only be entered in one category:**

- Mild Tomato
- Hot Tomato
- Mustard
- Vinegar
- Specialty



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Entry Requirements

- Sauce must be commercially produced and publicly available (retail, wholesale, or direct-to-consumer)
- Valid UPC (or international equivalent) required
- Product must be sealed, labeled, and FDA compliant
- Minimum bottle size: 8 oz
- Sauces only (no rubs, marinades, jellies, relishes, or bastes)

Registration Fees

- **1 entry:** \$75
- **2 entries:** \$65 each
- **3+ entries:** \$60 each

How to Register:

1. Complete online registration and payment
2. Print your confirmation email
3. Ship bottles **with a copy of your confirmation**

Once received at the American Royal office, entries are cross-checked with registrations. You will be contacted if bottles are missing or damaged.



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Judging & Sanctioning

- The sauce contest is KCBS sanctioned and approved.
 - Blind judging conducted by KCBS-certified judges
 - Sauces will be evaluated on their own and with unseasoned pulled pork
 - Scored on appearance, texture, and taste
 - Judges may not be affiliated with any competing company
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Awards

Per Category:

- **1st Place:** \$500 + Ribbon
- **2nd Place:** \$250 + Ribbon
- **3rd Place:** \$125 + Ribbon

Overall Champion Sauce is awarded to the highest scoring sauce across all categories.

🏆 The winner will receive **\$1,000**, a special trophy, and an invitation package to the American Royal World Series of Barbecue®

Winners are invited to receive their awards on stage at the fall American Royal event.

Donations

Extra bottles may be donated to support **American Royal educational programs**. Donated products may be used for marketing or resale to benefit the organization.



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INSURANCE & LIABILITY

Liability

Companies are liable and responsible for the shipping and packaging of their entries.

Contestant use of American Royal name, logo, branding, etc.

All use of the American Royal name, logo, likeness, and branding of the American Royal World Series of Barbecue® Sauce Contest is the property of the American Royal Association. Any mention of the contest or the American Royal must be approved by the American Royal. For all inquiries please contact our Marketing Department at Marketing@AmericanRoyal.com

Insurance

Neither the American Royal, the city of Kansas City, MO, KCBS, nor the representatives, will be responsible for any injury, loss or damage that may occur to the entries, the judges or guests or property from any cause whatsoever. It is the Contestant's responsibility to protect shipment so that no injury will result to persons or property. The Contestant, upon reading this agreement which is a requirement prior to entering the contest, expressly releases, holds, keeps and saves harmless and indemnifies the forgoing names, organizations and committees and individuals from all claims for such loss, damage, or injury. Contestants are advised to carry insurance to cover any of the above.

Force Majeure

In case of cancellation of the contest or unavailability of the Contest Space for the specified due to war, governmental action or order, act of God, fire, strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond the Royal's control, this Agreement shall terminate, and the Contestant shall be entitled to the return of the Entry Fee for the Contest, less the prorated share allocated to the Contest of the expenses incurred by the Royal in connection with the contest. In case of cancellation by the Royal for any other reason, or a change in the place or date of the contest which is unsatisfactory to the Contestant, the Contestant shall be entitled to return of sums paid for the Contest. Refund of the Fees as provided in this section shall be the exclusive remedy of the Contestant against the Royal in case the contest is canceled or rescheduled through war, governmental action or order, acts of God, fire, strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond the Royal of and from all claims for damage and agrees that the Royal shall have no obligation except the above stated refund.

Successor Interest

This Agreement shall bind the respective parties and their successors in interest.



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CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

The Royal reserves the right to make changes to these rules. Any matters not specifically covered herein are subject to decision by the Royal. The Royal reserves the right to make such changes, amendments and additions to these rules as considered advisable for the proper conduct of the contest with the provision that all Contestants will be advised of any such changes in writing.

Please check back for the most updated version of this document. Updates to the document will be noted for ease of use.

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A Kansas City tradition since 1899, the American Royal is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to be the nation's leader for food and agriculture education, events, and engagement. The American Royal provides opportunities for nearly half a million youth and adults from around the world to engage in high-quality events and experiences, including nationally competitive livestock shows, the world's largest barbecue competition, regional and national equine shows, youth and professional rodeos, and elementary and secondary education outreach. Support from partners, members, and volunteers help the American Royal achieve its vision of a world where food and agriculture are celebrated, and all generations are committed to its future.