



American Royal World Series of Barbecue® 2026 Invitational Contest International Qualifying Criteria

Qualifying Period: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026

Qualifying Information:

- 2026 Invitational Contest qualifying criteria: For the 2026 Invitational, eligible teams must have won a Grand Champion from a qualifying contest through our partnering sanctioning bodies from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.

International Qualifying Contest Criteria:

- The qualifying contest must be held between **July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2026**.
- All Invitational teams must secure a spot and compete in the Open Contest. Open applications will be available at www.americanroyal.com in spring 2026.
- A minimum of 10 teams **MUST** participate in ALL contest categories to be considered Grand Champion.
- Contest **MUST** be governed by a legitimate, substantiated sanctioning body.
- The team eligible and entered to compete in the American Royal Invitational **MUST** be the same team and Chief Cook who won the qualifying contest. Only the documented Grand Champion combination will be invited. No pass downs will be accepted.
- Domestic teams **MAY NOT** qualify for the American Royal Invitational on international soil.
- International contests sanctioned by an American Royal approved sanctioning body registered in the U.S. will qualify.
- The sanctioning body must receive and send all necessary contest details, including Grand Champion contact information, to the American Royal at BBQ@americanroyal.com.
- The American Royal reserves the right to alter, amend, or disregard these rules.
- The American Royal reserves the right to consider individual team circumstances on a case-by-case basis in order to determine Invitational eligibility at its sole discretion.