

“The Big Cheese” Pizza Eating Contest Rules

Each contestant in “The Big Cheese” Pizza Eating Contest must agree to follow and be bound by the following contest rules. Failure to follow the rules will result in disqualification from the contest.

1. Contestants:

- A. All participants must be over the age of 21 and sign a waiver acknowledging the risks involved with competitive eating.
- B. Contestants may be required to provide proof of health or a doctor's note stating they are fit to participate.
- C. Each contestant will have an assigned seat and must remain seated during the contest.

2. Equipment:

- A. The contest organizer Wind Creek Hospitality (or should this be Hospitality?) will provide the cheese pizzas, which will be of uniform size and thickness to ensure fairness. (The pizzas will all be prepared by Pizza Perfect.)
- B. Contestants are allowed to have one beverage of their choice (water or non-alcoholic) on hand, in a clear container provided by the Wind Creek Hospitality.
- C. Napkins, paper towels, or wet wipes will be provided to each contestant by Wind Creek Hospitality.

3. The Pizzas:

- A. All pizzas used in the contest will be of a uniform size (standard large pizza).
- B. The pizzas will be cooled to a safe temperature that avoids the risk of burning but is still warm (around room temperature).
- C. Each pizza will be sliced into an equal number of pieces, twelve slices per pizza.

4. Contest Structure:

- A. The contest will have a 10-minute set time limit.
- B. At the start signal, contestants will begin eating their cheese pizzas without using utensils.
- C. Contestants must eat the pizza slices **one at a time** and are not allowed to stack or fold slices.
- D. The contestant who eats the most pizza slices within the time limit is declared the winner. If a tie occurs, a tie-breaker round will be held with a set time limit (e.g., 5 minutes).

5. Rules of Eating:

- A. Dipping pizza in water or a beverage to soften it is **NOT** allowed.
- B. Contestants must swallow the pizza for it to count.
- C. "Chipmunking," or holding food in the cheeks while the time expires, is not allowed. Contestants have a short grace period (30 seconds) after the contest to swallow any pizza remaining in their mouths. If at the end of the "Chipmunking" period pizza still remains in their mouth they will be disqualified.
- D. "Reversal of fortune" (vomiting) will disqualify a contestant immediately.

6. Judging:

- A. Judges will be present to ensure all rules are followed.
- B. Judges will count the number of pizza slices to determine the winner.
- C. Judges have the final say on any disputes or rule infractions.

7. Safety:

- A. Poarch Creek Fire EMT staff will be on-site in case of an emergency. If EMT staff determines that other medical care and/or transport via ambulance is necessary due to the nature of the emergency, the Contestant is responsible for any charges and costs associated with the emergency care and/or transport.
- B. Contestants are encouraged to pace themselves and eat in a manner that does not cause choking.
- C. Contestants are allowed to stop eating at any time and withdraw from the contest.

Safety of the contestants is paramount. Any signs of distress should and will be taken seriously, and the contest will be stopped if necessary.

8. Prizes:

- A. Prizes will be announced before the contest begins and can range \$150 - \$500 in cash & prizes.
 - 1st place: \$500
 - 2nd place: \$250
 - 3rd place: \$150

9. Conduct:

- A. Sportsmanship is expected at all times. Disrespectful behavior towards judges, other contestants, or spectators can result in disqualification.
- B. Contestants must not interfere with other contestants' eating or disrupt the event in any way.

10. Post-Contest:

- A. After the contest concludes, contestants are encouraged to remain in the area for a short period to ensure they are feeling well.
- B. The winner(s) will be announced, and prizes will be awarded following the confirmation of the final results by the judges.
- C. An area will be designated for contestants to rest and recover after the contest is over.

11. Media and Publicity:

- A. Contestants may be required to agree to have their image and participation used for promotional purposes.
- B. Participants may be interviewed by media before or after the contest, but not during the actual eating.

12. Registration and Fees:

- A. Contestants must register for the contest by 11:30am on March 30, 2024, and pay the entry fee of \$25 prior to the start of the contest. Failure to pay the entry fee will result in being disqualified from the contest.
- B. The number of contestants may be limited, so registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

13. Alterations to the Rules:

- A. The organizer (Wind Creek Hospitality) reserves the right to make changes to the rules at any time. Any changes will be communicated to contestants in advance of the start of the contest.

14. Indemnification:

- A. The organizer is not responsible for the health implications that may result from participation in the contest. By entering the contest, participants agree to indemnify the organizer against any claims related to health issues or injuries.
- B. All Contestants must sign a Waiver and Release of Liability.