CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Barbecue Competitors Alliance (BCA)

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this combined Barbecue Competitors Alliance (BCA) Constitution and Bylaws with the associated promulgated Rules, the following definitions are hereby adopted:

Ancillary:	Any food item prepared for a contest category that is NOT one of the main barbecue meats of half chicken, pork spareribs, pork (Boston butt or shoulder), or beef brisket. An ancillary category is also known as a jackpot category.
Barbecue:	Barbecue is the preparation of meat that is usually done in an outdoor environment by smoking the meat over wood or charcoal. The word barbecue is derived from the old European word *barbacoa* that translates as "sacred fire pit". *Barbacoa* in this sense means a smoker or grill for cooking meat, consisting of a raised platform resting on sticks. The BCA is dedicated to bringing traditional *barbacoa* to the modern public in the form of being the sanctioning body of choice for low-cost barbecue contests. It is the goal of the BCA to keep costs for its contests as low as possible.
Barbecue Pit:	Any commercial or homemade, barbecue pit or smoker normally used for making barbecue. A barbecue pit may include gas or electricity for starting the combustion of wood or wood products, but not to complete the cooking process.
Contest Official:	Person(s) who have been trained to manage a BCA sanctioned contest. Persons so trained are certified in BCA rules and procedures.
Election Cycle:	Officers/Directors of BCA will be elected in a cycle every even numbered year before the Annual Meeting held in the following odd-numbered year at the conclusion of the previous term of office.
On-Site:	The preparation and completion, excluding pre-trimming of all meats in competition within the confines of the cook-off site and during the time limits designated by the cook-off promoter.
Rotisserie:	A spit or combination of human-powered or automatic racks that allow meat to be turned above a source of heat.
Rule Change Cycle:	Members can submit to change rules no later than November 1st of odd numbered years which the cycle consists of 24 months.
Sanctioning:	Sanctioning implies a promoter agrees to follow all BCA Rules during their contest. As part of a sanctioning agreement, each promoter promises to pay a predetermined yearly sanctioning fee as defined by BCA. In addition, the promoter also agrees to pay a per team fee (defined by BCA) for use of the Rules, and the usual and customary BCA official expenses to manage the judging area during the contest. A minimum of 15 teams is required for a contest to be sanctioned by BCA.

Sanctioning Fee: A portion of the entry fee at any cook-off that is collected per entry by BCA.

Term of Office: Officers/Directors of the BCA Board of Directors (BoD) will be elected to a two-year term of office, starting at the Annual Meeting of an odd-numbered year spanning twenty-four (24) months.

ARTICLE II - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Barbecue Competitors Alliance, and the official abbreviation BCA may be used in referring to this organization.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the BCA shall be to promote the hobby of barbecue and competitive barbecue contests in all forms.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the BCA shall be open to anyone in the world that is 18 years of age or older and is interested in barbecue preparation and/or competitive barbecue cooking.

2. BCA membership gives voting rights in BCA business, and the opportunity to be recognized in the Annual Points Chase and Best New Cook awards.

3. The BoD can refuse or revoke membership to any person who takes part in inappropriate behavior or whose actions reflect negatively on BCA. This decision must be in line with all Federal, state, and local laws. This shall be done by a 2/3 vote of the BoD. The first offense shall result in a one-year suspension, after that time the member can reapply for membership. A second offense shall result in a two-year suspension, after that time the member can reapply for membership. A third offense shall result in lifetime suspension. According to the severity of the offense, the BoD can vote to go directly to a two-year or lifetime suspension.

ARTICLE V - DUES AND CONTEST SANCTIONING FEES

1. Annual and lifetime membership dues shall be enacted; the amount to be determined by the BoD. Members in good standing will be those that are current in the membership dues.

2. A request to sanction a barbecue event with BCA is to be submitted annually for a sanctioning fee that is determined by the BoD. Promoters should send a copy of the specific contest rules and registration flyer to the BCA Secretary/Administrator at least 60 days prior to the proposed barbecue event. Once the Rules and contest flyer has been received by BCA, each barbecue event will be listed on the website, and contest official(s) will be assigned. BCA will also provide each promoter with detailed information (in electronic format) to help run a barbecue event. Some of this information will include a sample payout, a detailed list of BCA Rules, the formula for running judging, sample cooks and judges' meetings, list of site requirements, and a list of e-mail addresses for cooks in the contest area.

3. Promoters will pay a per-team sanctioning fee to BCA. The BoD will set this fee at the beginning of each contest year. The total sanctioning fee is due to the BCA Treasurer no more than 30 days after the completion of the given barbecue event.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS/DIRECTORS AND DUTIES

1. The government of the BCA shall be comprised of the following officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary/Administrator

Each of these officers will be members of the BoD. In addition, the BoD will also consist of at least five at-large Directors and an ex-officio Past President. A President immediately becomes the Past President when the term expires, and they are no longer in office. A President who is reelected does not assume the position of Past President until their time in office expires. Only the most recent President who is no longer in office will be Past President. Members of the BoD will elect a Chair of the Board of Directors to preside at BoD meetings.

2. Duties of Officers/Directors

A) President

1) Shall preside at official functions, including the Annual Meeting, when in attendance. If he/she is not to be present at an official function, he/she will, whenever possible, appoint a member who does plan to be present to preside at the official function (preferably the Vice President); this appointment is not subject to Board approval.

2) Shall be responsible for protecting the reputation and dignity of the BCA and promote and administer the affairs of the organization to the best of their ability.

3) Shall with the approval of the Board, have the power to bring reprimand and revocation proceedings against any member who he/she deems is not adhering to the rules of the organization; he/she must submit in written form any findings to the Board for their actions.

4) Shall have the power to appoint the chairman of any committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.

5) Shall have the power to remove a chairman of any committee for neglect of duty; this action must in turn be approved by the Board.

6) Shall have the authority to act on any suggestions or proposals, making any recommendations if he/she so desires, but also submitting the primary proposal to the Board of Directors; any action on a suggestion or proposal is subject to the final approval of the Board.

7) Shall have the power to vote on any proposal that does not receive a majority decision by the Board of Directors during the contemporary administration so as to break any deadlock that would occur.

8) Shall not have veto action over the Board.

9) Shall assist the Secretary/Administrator in solving sanctioning request issues.

10) Is eligible to be elected Chair of the Board of Directors.

B) Vice President

1) Shall preside at all official functions, including the Annual Meeting, in the absence of the President.

2) Shall assist the President in managing the affairs of BCA, especially in the adoption of new rules or in changing existing rules, advertising, obtaining sponsorships, and finding new business.

3) Shall be responsible for training, managing, and certifying contest officials, assistants, and judges for BCA.

4) Shall be the initial point of contact for members to discuss problems or other related judging issues at BCA sanctioned events.

5) Shall coordinate the material content with the Secretary/Administrator for the BCA newsletter and web site.

C) Treasurer

1) The BoD will appoint one at-large member as Treasurer. The Treasurer will present quarterly and annual financial reports to the BoD from the accounting firm handling BCA finances.

2) The financial report shall be made available to all BCA members in good standing at the annual meeting electronically or in printed form.

3) They shall coordinate with the Secretary/Administrator all financial transactions regarding contests, membership fees, and sanction fees.

D) Secretary/Administrator

1) Shall be responsible for recording and filing minutes of the annual business meeting. In his/her absence at the business meeting, he/she shall appoint another member to record said minutes.

2) Shall update the Constitution and Bylaws and contest Rules whenever amendments are enacted and make printed or electronic copies available to the membership.

3) Shall modify and/or maintain the BCA website.

4) Shall be the BCA point-of-contact for appropriate Internet service providers for the website and/or contractors used to assist in programming or database administration tasks.

5) Shall maintain an electronic backup for all membership data and contest results for BCA.

6) Shall post all contest results on the BCA website from the appropriate contest officials. Will coordinate this activity with the Vice President in terms of developing, maintaining, and training contest officials.

7) Shall maintain an up-to-date list of e-mail addresses for all members, promoters, and interested persons.

8) Shall be the point-of-contact for promoters and members to send the required electronic paperwork for the American Royal Invitational in Kansas City, Missouri, The Jack Daniels World Championship in Lynchburg, Tennessee, or similar invitational barbecue contests/events. Will maintain these electronic records for future reference.

9) Shall be the point-of-contact for members in the day-to-day operations of BCA.

E) Board of Directors

1) Shall be responsible for protecting the reputation and dignity of the BCA and promote the affairs of the club to the best of their ability.

2) Shall have the final power in ruling on any club affairs, suggestions, proposals, recommendations, or findings submitted by the President; the Board shall have the power to present legislation and findings as well as make rulings.

3) Shall not have the power to appoint chairmen of the various committees, publishers, or editors, but shall have the power to confirm their appointment.

4) Shall conduct their business in person, by telephone, internet, mail/e-mail, or fax, or by any other means of expeditious communication, but if four BoD members are present during any meeting, a quorum for business shall exist.

5) Shall have the power, if they deem it necessary, to call for a special election to submit a major issue to the membership-at-large.

6) Shall have the power to submit a question to the vote of those present at the annual business meeting with a simple majority of those voting prevailing.

F) Past President

1) Provide general advice to the President and other BoD members as required.

2) Shall not be the Chair for the Board of Directors.

3) Assists the BoD in working with promoters with existing or newly sanctioned barbecue contests.

4) Shall handle all aspects of all elections of officers/directors, whether regular or special, with complete authority.

5) Shall assist the President in dealing with irregularities, reprimands, dismissals, referenda, recalls, or amendments/changes to the constitution and bylaws.

G) Chair of the Board of Directors

1) Shall preside at all BoD meetings.

2) Shall be selected from the membership of the BoD.

3) Shall not be the Past President.

H) All Officers/Directors shall help in the running of at least one contest per year, either as an official or working in the judging area. Schedule to be determined by those presently serving in office.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS/SELECTIONS

1. Frequency of Elections and Terms of Office

   A) The terms of elective office shall begin immediately after the Annual Meeting of odd numbered years and shall expire with the conclusion of the next election cycle twenty-four (24) months later.

   B) The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and at-large Members of the BoD will be elected to two-year terms, starting at the Annual Meeting of an odd-numbered year spanning twenty-four (24) months.

2. By Whom Elected

   A) The President, Vice President, shall be elected by the membership-at-large. Each member in good standing shall have one vote for each office.

   B) The at-large Directors shall be elected by the membership-at-large; the number to be determined by the BoD or petition of the membership. Each member in good standing may vote for the candidates seeking Directorships.

   C) The Chair for the Board of Directors (Chair) shall be elected by the whole BoD in accordance with Article VII Section 6.

   D) The Secretary/Administrator shall be selected by the whole BoD in accordance with Article VII Section 11.

3. Eligibility to Hold Office

   Any member in good standing regardless of where they live shall be eligible for regular election to any office, provided they have held one year's continuous membership in the BCA before the election year. For purposes of special elections, the requirement shall be one year's continuous membership as of the effective date of the vacancy of the office in question, such date to be determined by the President. It is not necessary for an eligible member's name to be printed on a ballot for them to be elected.

4. Authority for Elections

   The sitting Past President or their designate shall handle all aspects of elections of other officers/directors, whether regular or special, with complete authority. Since the Past President is not an officer, he/she should essentially be unbiased, and therefore, may not campaign for a person, policy, or matter to be voted upon, or run for any elected office, during the period in which he/she is involved with the election cycle.

5. Regular Elections, Procedures, and Dates

   A) The Past President or their designate shall be responsible for announcing full details concerning the upcoming election in the BCA newsletter and website. This announcement will take place approximately toward the end of an even-numbered year before the end of the election cycle.

   B) Nominations shall be open for President, Vice President, and the at-large Directors in the fall of the year preceding election. Only one nomination each for President, Vice President, and the at-large Directors, shall be allowed for each BCA member. An eligible member may nominate

themself. All nominations must be submitted in written form (hard paper letter or e-mail) to the Past President by November 1st of an even-numbered year.

C) As soon as possible, the Past President or their designate shall send to the Secretary/ Administrator a list of all nominees. The Secretary/Administrator will return the list to the Past President as soon as possible indicating which nominees have been members in good standing for the required one-year period.

D) The Past President or their designate shall notify all eligible candidates concerning their nominations as soon as possible. All nominees must reply in writing to the Past President if they accept the nomination, unless they have nominated themselves, and each such reply must request from each nominee a campaign statement. However, nominees are not required to submit campaign statements provided they have duly notified the Past President or their designate of their intention to run for office or they have nominated themselves. Campaign statements may be submitted for each office for which the candidate intends to run, but it is not mandatory that they submit campaign statements for each office. BCA members may be nominated for more than one office but must decide for which office(s) they prefer to run and so notify the Past President or their designate of all such office(s) for which they will run for. Nominees who have indicated their intention to run for a particular office may not be considered for another office in the same election.

E) All letters or statements of acceptance of the nomination, and all campaign statements, must reach the Past President or their designate no later than November 1 of an even numbered year immediately before the end of the election cycle.

F) Elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and the at-large Directors will take place immediately before the end of the election cycle. BCA will use a combination of standard mail-in paper and electronic ballots for its elections. The BoD will set the exact format for each election. The Past President will form a committee of members to act as observers when the votes are counted. Individual candidates are allowed to have observers present when the votes are counted.

6. Election for the Chair of the Board of Directors

The Past President or their designate shall ballot the BoD soon after each regular election to determine the Chair for the Board, who will be the presiding officer at Board meetings.

7. Special Elections of Officers and Replacements

A) In the event the offices of President, Vice President, or at-large Director(s) become vacant with more than 12 months (1 year) remaining in their term, or in any other circumstances requiring a special election of officers, a special election shall be conducted as soon as possible with the relevant procedures outlined above or by a method as approved by the whole BoD. If advisable, the various deadline dates shall be altered, but the relative timing of the various procedures will be retained.

B) If less than 12 months remain in the original term, the BoD can appoint a member in good standing to complete the unexpired term for President, Vice President, or the at-large Directors.

C) If the position of Past President becomes vacant, then the BoD will select a former President, Past President, or a senior BCA member in good standing to complete the unexpired term.

D) If the BCA membership for an Officer/Director expires during the current term and they fail to renew within one month, they will be deemed to have resigned their position.

E) Should the Chair for the Board resign, or the office become vacant for any reason, a special election among the BoD shall be conducted immediately in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VII Section 6.

8. Determining Winners

A) The Nominee for each Officer/Director position who gets the highest majority percentage of the total member votes (from all sources) is elected. Members must be in good standing to participate in a BCA election.

B) In the case of ties in the elections for President, Vice President, or the at-large Directors, the sitting BoD will determine the winner. The candidate who gets the largest number of BoD votes for a given Officer/Director position race will be declared the winner.

C) In the case of a tie in the balloting for the Chair for the Board, the President (or in the event his office is vacant, the Vice President) shall cast the deciding vote.

D) In case no person has been nominated to fill the Officer/Director positions, the Board of Directors shall select the winners in the best manner they see fit.

9. Announcement of Results of Elections

The results of all regular and special elections shall in all cases be announced by the Past President or their designate in the BCA newsletter and website.

10. Re-Election of BoD Members

A) The President, Vice President, and the at-large Directors can be elected to one or more terms by winning the election (by a simple majority). Members are eligible for these offices as long as their dues are paid and they are in good standing. There are no term limitations for any elected BoD member.

B) If the President wins re-election, using the procedures described above, then the sitting Past President will continue to serve in this capacity on the BoD.

11. Selection of the Secretary/Administrator

When an opening for the office of Secretary/Administrator exists, the BoD will advertise for the position on the BCA newsletter, BCA website, or by other effective means. Candidates who have the necessary skills and abilities for this position will be interviewed by the entire BoD. One candidate from this pool of applicants will be selected to be the permanent Secretary/Administrator. The Secretary/Administrator will serve as a member of the BoD and can be replaced for just cause, resignation, or death.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors may, from time to time, establish various committees to carry on the activities of the BCA. The Board shall have the power to establish guidelines and policies relative to the functions, operations, and authorities of any committee, but, in all other respects, committee chairs shall have complete authority over the operations of their committees.

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting

   A) The BCA Annual Meeting shall be held for purposes of presenting the reports of officers/directors, committees and boards, announcing election winners, and such other business as may lawfully come before the meeting.

   B) The Annual Meeting of the BCA shall be open and public and will be held early in each calendar year.

   C) The location and date of the Annual Meeting will be at the sole discretion of the BoD.

   D) Members can attend the Annual Meeting either in person or by some electronic means as necessary.

2. Special Meetings

   A) Special meetings of the BCA may be called at any time by the Board of Directors on its own motion or may be called by the Board of Directors on petition of at least 20% of the membership. Such meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Board of Directors or petition herein specified shall determine.

   B) Members can attend a Special Meeting either in person or by some electronic means if necessary.

3. Voting

   Each member shall have one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. At all meetings, except as otherwise provided by law, the members entitled to vote who are present shall constitute a quorum. All action, except as otherwise provided by law by the BCA Constitution and Bylaws, shall be by majority of those members present and voting. Present and voting by proxy may be allowed at the discretion of and in accordance with Rules prescribed by the BoD.

ARTICLE X - CONTRACTS, INDEBTEDNESS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, & BUDGETS

1. The BoD may enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the BCA.

2. No indebtedness shall be issued on its name, unless authorized by a specific vote of the membership.

3. The President or Treasurer shall sign all checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money. All funds of the BCA shall be routinely deposited in the account of the BCA in such financial institution as the BoD may select.

4. The BoD will prepare and follow a yearly balanced budget for BCA. At no time will BCA be allowed to run a deficit. The budget will be approved by a majority of the BoD.

ARTICLE XI - RULES

1. BCA Rules provide the normal policies, procedures, and guidelines that will be used during competitive barbecue events to ensure that such contests remain fair and equitable to all.

2. Any member in good standing can petition to change the Rules by submitting an e-mail request to the Vice President no later than early November (of odd numbered years) directly before the Annual Meeting in even numbered years.

3. A meeting of the BoD will be called before the Annual Meeting for the sole purpose of finalizing the new Rules and changes to the Rules. The new Rules and changes to the Rules that receive a majority vote of the BoD will be put before the whole membership for final adoption.

4. The final version of new Rules or changes to existing Rules from the BoD will be read aloud and discussed at the Annual Meeting in even numbered years. Members assembled at the Annual Meeting cannot make amendments or changes to the BoD approved draft Rules or changes to the Rules. Members can seek recourse by filing a petition on Rules issues following the procedure as outlined in Article XV.

5. After discussion at the Annual Meeting, the BoD approved new Rules or changes to existing Rules will be voted on by the membership in an election. BCA will use a combination of standard mail-in paper or electronic web-based ballots for rules adoption. New Rules or changes to existing Rules are adopted by a simple majority of the voting members. The BoD will set the exact format for each election.

6. New Rules and changes to existing Rules will go into effect immediately after the completion of the election.

ARTICLE XII - LOCAL CHAPTERS

1. BCA encourages the formation of separate local, regional, or state chapters.

2. Chapters shall abide by and adhere to this Constitution and Bylaws as well as all BCA Rules.

3. All applications for new chapters will be decided by the BoD.

ARTICLE XIII - APPROVED CATEGORIES

1. Approved meat categories for any BCA contest are any combination of half chicken, pork spareribs, pork (Boston butt or shoulder), and beef brisket. However, BCA recommends that chicken, beef brisket and either spareribs or pork Boston butt or shoulder be part of any sanctioned contest.

2. Promoters can add the dessert, sauce, or other ancillary/jackpot categories to any contest.

3. Details into the types of meat and ancillary/jackpot categories in each sanctioned contest can be found in the BCA Rules.

ARTICLE XIV - SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS

1. All suggestions and proposals shall be submitted to the President in written form, who will then submit them to the BoD for action (along with any specific recommendations he may care to make). The final decision as to any action to be taken rests with the BoD.

2. A proposal that receives more "yes" votes than "no" votes will be considered passed. A proposal which is related to the activities of a BCA committee or the club treasury will first be submitted to the respective committee chair or the Treasurer for their recommendations, which will be subsequently submitted to the Board along with the primary proposal.

ARTICLE XV - PETITIONS AND ADMENDMENTS

1. At any time, a member in good standing can submit a change petition on any proposal (including Rules). This petition must contain the names and signatures of a minimum of 20% of the current membership and explain the change and its rationale to the Board of Directors. Once received, the Board of Directors will determine a time and manner for discussion with BCA members, with the outcome to be determined at that time." If the petition is agreed to be voted on, a special election will be conducted on the matter. The change will be adopted if a simple majority of members vote for approval. This change goes into effect immediately after its adoption, unless the proposal specifies a date for its going into effect. This pertains to matters other than those concerning the contents of this document.

2. These Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by members through the submission of a request in written form to the President, who will in turn submit the proposal to the Board for consideration. With the approval of the Board by simple majority, the proposal is then submitted to the Past President or their designate who shall arrange for a special election. A proposed amendment petition must be presented by the Past President or their designate to a vote before the entire membership. To be enacted as an amendment, the proposal must receive a simple majority of those members voting. An amendment goes into effect immediately after its adoption, unless the proposal specifies a date for its going into effect.

ARTICLE XVI - RECALL

If a petition is presented to the Past President or their designate bearing the signatures of 40% of the membership asking for the removal from any officer/director, a special election shall be called at which the membership will be asked to vote for or against such removal. If the removal of the officer/director/member is approved by 2/3 of the members voting, the office shall be declared vacant.

ARTICLE XVII - RATIFICATION

The ratification of a 2/3 majority of those members voting shall be sufficient to establish these Constitution and Bylaws as the official documents of the Barbecue Competitors Alliance of America.

ARTICLE XVIII - DISSOLUTION

1. BCA may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting convened for the purpose of which ninety (90) days' notice shall have been given to the members.

2. If BCA is dissolved, the BoD will pay all outstanding debts. The members of the BoD are not personally liable for any debt incurred by BCA. All leftover funds will be proportionally paid back to all the members in good standing.

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