

Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association
E D U C A T I O N A L F O U N D A T I O N
MRLAEF

2023 Michigan ProStart Invitational® March 5th & 6th, 2023

Culinary Competition Procedures & Rules

Participating teams are responsible for understanding and following all the procedures and rules contained in this document; they will not be reviewed at the Michigan ProStart Invitational. Please read this document carefully to maximize your opportunity for success and to avoid receiving penalties during the competition.

Questions regarding competition rules should be sent to Mallory Schluchter mschluchter@mrla.org or 517.377.3924 PRIOR to the start of the competition.

2023 Michigan ProStart Invitational Procedures and Rules

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Purpose

Students participating at the Michigan ProStart Invitational (MPSI) will demonstrate their knowledge of, passion for, and creativity in the restaurant industry through the Culinary and Management competitions. Participation reinforces the skills and knowledge learned from the ProStart program and the “Foundations of Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts” curriculum.

Eligibility

Students

1. All high school students, currently enrolled in a confirmed ProStart program recognized by the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association Educational Foundation are eligible to compete.
2. Students may participate at MPSI as a competitor for only two years, which may be non-consecutive. For the purposes of MPSI, competitors are defined as active team members (i.e., cooking or presenting) and/or team managers.
3. Students may compete in one or both the Culinary and Management teams in any year. Competing on two teams at any one MPSI counts as one year of competition.

Teams

1. Participating teams consist of two (2) to four (4) student team members and one (1) optional team manager, for a maximum total of five (5) students.
 - a. Each team is permitted to bring one to two educators and one optional restaurant/foodservice industry mentor. Educators and mentors are not considered members of the team, and as such may not communicate with team members from report time through dismissal.
2. The team manager may only step into an active role (i.e., cooking or presenting) if an original team member is injured, sick or otherwise unable to participate. In such cases, the team manager, with Lead Competition Judge and Event Organizer Staff approval, may replace the affected student. Additional team members may not be substituted in the team manager’s place or in any other active team role.
3. The team manager may also participate in certain defined roles in the competitions. See the rules for details.

General Disqualifications

1. Teams and all associated competitors must be eligible to compete, as defined by the eligibility terms above. Teams found to be ineligible will be disqualified. Additionally, any individual students found to be ineligible will result in complete team disqualification.
2. Teams must check in by the required time on date of arrival or they will be disqualified. The only exception made will be for travel delays beyond the control of the team with appropriate notice to Event Staff.
3. Competing students must arrive at the appointed time to compete or they will be disqualified. The only exception made will be for travel delays beyond the control of the team with appropriate notice to Event Staff.
4. No team member can receive coaching or any form of communication from anyone, including spectators, educators, mentors, or coaches during the competition from the team's report time until after the competing team completes dishwashing. The determination of what constitutes coaching or communication is solely at the discretion of the MRLAEF and the judges. No warnings will be provided; violations will result in immediate team disqualification.
5. Misconduct including, but not limited to, any nonprescription drug use, alcohol use, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any activity that is illegal under federal, state or local laws at the event, during competition, during unsupervised free time, during supervised competition social activities or in activities or locations related to the event. Should such alleged misconduct come to the MRLAEF's attention, the matter will be investigated as the deems appropriate. Any decision as to appropriate action due to misconduct, up to and including team disqualification, is at the sole discretion of the MRLAEF and is final.
6. Teams must participate in each event segment in the competition, or they will be disqualified. For details on competition segments see Culinary and Management rules. Failure to compete in any segment will result in team disqualification.
7. By entering into the contest, the student and the team he/she represents accepts all conditions and requirements of the Michigan ProStart Invitational.

Final Scoring

All judges have been carefully selected by the Event Organizers for their related skills, experience, and expertise. Judges have reviewed the rules in advance of the competition and participated in an orientation and in-person training. By participating in the competitions, each team and its participants acknowledge that while every effort will be made to provide fair and impartial judging, some discretion and subjectivity is present in any judged competition. All decisions and scoring by judges are final. Any questions about scoring should be submitted to the Michigan ProStart Coordinator, Mallory Schluchter, at mschluchter@mrla.org.

Schedules

Competition schedules will be distributed in advance of the event once all teams have been identified. The schedule will include assigned start and finish times for all competition segments. All schedules are subject to change without notice but will be communicated out with as much advance notice as possible.

General Provisions

Teams will be using tools that may cause cuts, burns or injury if not used appropriately. Proper safety techniques must be followed by all team members. No horseplay or unduly hazardous behavior will be allowed or tolerated. The mentors, teachers, chaperones, and families are expected to ensure that the team members comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Team members shall comply with all other written as well as verbal instructions or warnings provided by the Event Organizers.

What's New for 2023

The following provides a review of information added to the 2023 MPSI rules. Please see below.

Culinary

- New point values for competition categories to include Team Presentation and Knife Skills category. (pg. 7)
- Entrée accompaniments may be vegetable and/or starch. (pg. 8)
- Electronic submissions of the menu, recipes, and photographs of the dishes must be submitted as one pdf document by the deadline. (pg. 8)
- Event organizers will provide two (2) 1oz volume containers for knife skills selections. (pg. 9)
- Permitted equipment - Handheld butane/propane torch for FINISHING or CAMELIZING only. (pg. 9)
- Prohibited equipment
 - Equipment may not be stacked in the workspace. (pg.9)
 - Cutting guides i.e. cutting boards with rulers or other measurement aids for knife cuts. (pg. 9)
- Recipe costing – Salt and pepper may be included at 1% of total cost, and frying oil (for deep frying) may be included at 2% of total cost. All other ingredients must be costed out. (pg.10)
- Product Check-in and Report to Competition have been renamed for clarity. There will be two separate locations for reporting. (pg.11)
- Team Presentation and Knife Skills have been separated from Work Skills and Organization to be two separate judging categories. Teams will be required to select two (2) out of eleven (11) knife cuts, indicate those items on their written menus, and prepare a 1oz volume selection of each for judges to score. (pg. 15)
- Culinary Workspace Blueprint orientation rotated. (pg. 18)
- New recipe and recipe costing examples provided. (pgs. 20 - 23)
- Sample score sheet updated to include Team Presentation and Knife Skills category. (pg.28)

2023 MPSI Culinary Competition

Description

Teams demonstrate their culinary knowledge, skills, and creative abilities during the competition through demonstration of skills and the preparation of a unique three-course meal consisting of (i) a starter; (ii) an entrée; and (iii) a dessert. Performance during the Culinary event is observed and rated by judges from the foodservice industry and post-secondary schools. Teams demonstrate their ability to work together while creating and presenting their meal.

Scoring

1. A maximum of 100 points can be earned by a team during the Culinary competition. Product Check-In is worth five (5) points, Team Presentation/Knife Skills is worth ten (10) points, Work Skills/Organization is worth fifteen (15), Safety and Sanitation is worth fifteen (15) points, the Starter is worth fifteen (15) points, the Entrée is twenty (20) points, the Dessert is fifteen (15) points, and Menu and Recipe Presentation is worth five (5) points.
2. In the event of a tie: the tying teams will each be interviewed by a panel of judges for further insights into their performance. Teams will be asked questions to be answered verbally with regard to the methods, preparation and presentation of their meal. Judges will discuss and make a group determination as to the ranking of final winner(s).

Menu Planning and Preparation for Culinary Competition

1. Each team develops a unique three-course menu. Menus must be distinct and not significantly repetitive of previously submitted work. MRLAEF will review all submitted menus, recipes, and photographs to determine if they are significantly repetitive of work previously submitted at MPSI and will provide feedback to teams with a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to competition to permit each team time to revise. Ignoring MRLAEF guidance and submitting for review or bringing work, or parts of work, previously submitted at MPSI, will result in immediate team disqualification via email or onsite. To ensure compliance, the standard for change is included below:
 - a. Standard for Change
 - i. *Entrée and Starter:*
 - Protein: The protein or cooking method must change.
 - Vegetable: The vegetable or cooking method must change.
 - Starch: The starch or cooking method must change.
 - Presentation: The presentation must be visibly different from the previous years.
 - ii. *Dessert:*
 - Base (e.g. mousse/Bavarian/tart/cake, etc.): The base must change.
 - Garnish: The garnish components or processing must change (e.g. raspberry whole v. coulis).
 - Presentation: The presentation must be visibly different from the previous years.
2. Each team prepares two (2) identical three-course meals, garnished and served appropriately. One meal is evaluated by the judges for both taste and presentation, and one meal will be used for display. The meal consists of:
 - a. A starter consisting of:
 - i. A first course: soup, salad, appetizer
 - ii. Size appropriate: 4-6 ounces total edible weight
 - b. An entrée consisting of:
 - i. Center of the plate item: 4-6 ounces suggested

- ii. Two accompaniments such as vegetable and/or starch: 2-3 ounces each suggested
 - iii. Sauce
 - c. A dessert consisting of:
 - i. A little something sweet served at the end of the meal
 - ii. Size appropriate: 3± ounces total edible weight
- Each meal component should be appropriate to the complete menu. Flavors across the menu should have harmony for the palate. The five characteristics considered for a plated meal will be:
- a. **Oral:** Flavor, Texture, Temperature
 - b. **Visual:** Color, Shape
3. Teams must employ a minimum of two cooking methods from the following list: Poach, Shallow Poach, Braise, Pan Fry, Steam, and Sauté.
 - a. Additional techniques are also permitted.
 - b. Molecular gastronomy in the competition:
 - i. Use of liquid nitrogen is not allowed.
 - ii. Spherification, foams, and meat glue (transglutaminase) are allowed.
 4. Teams must bring all ingredients necessary to prepare the menu they have developed. See *Product Check-In for information on permitted vs. prohibited ingredients.*
 5. Educator(s) and Mentor participation:
 - a. May assist teams in preparing for the competition.
 - b. May not develop the menu.
 - c. Expertise is limited to menu suggestions and technique advice.
 6. To allow officials and judges adequate time to review your menu, an electronic copy of the menu, recipes, and photographs of the dishes must be submitted as one pdf document to mschluchter@mrla.org **no later than February 20th, 2023**. Minor adjustments and corrections to the recipes are allowed, but changes to the menu are not allowed after submission. If there is a question about what constitutes a minor adjustment, please contact mschluchter@mrla.org. A penalty will be issued if the team does not submit as stated above. See *Culinary Competition Penalties*.

Workspace and Equipment

1. The workspace consists of:
 - a. Two (2) eight-foot tables set up in an “L” formation within a 10’ x 10’ space.
 - i. The station tables can be covered with a variety of materials to keep the table surface consistent across stations (e.g. fire-retardant plastic, food-safe elastic covering, tablecloth, etc.), which must remain in use during competition.
 - ii. Tables may not be moved prior to or during competition.
 - iii. Teams may not move the doorway of the workspace prior to or during competition.
 - iv. See *Exhibit A for Culinary Station Blueprint*.
 - b. Food preparation must be done within the workspace on the tables provided.
 - c. Equipment and supplies must be contained within the allotted 10’ x 10’ space unless otherwise directed by event staff.
 - d. Team members may only work on the tables from the interior of the space.
2. Event Organizers provide:

- a. Two (2) eight-foot tables, at approximately 36 inches in height
 - b. Sanitation buckets
 - c. Two (2) 1oz containers for Knife Skills selections
 - d. Access to ice
 - e. Access to running water (available prior to and after the competition only)
 - f. All presentation dishes. Teams may only use dishes and glassware provided by Event Organizers, no exceptions. Teams must select their dishes and glassware during the registration process.
3. Team must provide:
- a. All necessary supplies to prepare the food they have selected, such as small utensils, cutting boards, small hand tools, cookware, gloves, and enough cloths for competition and clean-up

<i>Permitted Equipment</i>	<i>Prohibited Equipment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handheld whipped cream chargers • Digital scales and thermometers • Handheld butane/propane torch for FINISHING or CAMELIZING only any item, sweet or savory • Metal, stone or other types of plates or apparatus to extend the cooking surface of the burners • Dry ice • Audio recording device to record the critique and feedback sessions • Electronic devices which contain no communication abilities (e.g. basic calculator or timer) • Additional sheet pans • Camping oven and/or smoker attachments for provided burner <p><i>All equipment must be used in a safe manner and not obstruct proper butane function.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fueled or mechanical heat sources other than provided event burners or handheld torch for finishing • MRE heater packs • Electric, battery-operated, or compressed air/gas devices (exceptions: handheld whipped cream chargers, digital scales, digital thermometers) • Plastic or Plexiglas for the purpose of covering tables • Cell phones, tablets, smart watches, or other communication devices • Additional speed racks or equipment exceeding the external dimensions of 2 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft • Equipment may not be stacked • Cutting guides i.e. cutting boards with rulers or other measurement aids for knife cuts

Menu and Recipe Presentation

1. Each team prepares eight (8) softbound folders/binders with the team's state and year clearly shown on each cover.
 - a. Do not use plastic pockets to hold pages, as this impedes judges' ability to provide feedback.
 - b. Examples of folder:
 - i. https://www.staples.com/Avery-Flexible-5-Inch-Round-3-Ring-View-Binder-Blue-17670/product_614315
 - ii. http://www.staples.com/JAM-Paper-Plastic-2-Pocket-Eco-School-Folders-with-Metal-Tang-Fastener-Clasps-Clear-6-Pack-382ECCLDD-/product_2329283

- c. See *Exhibit B for Deliverables Checklist*.
2. Each binder/folder must contain a copy of:
 - a. Recipes: all recipes for the meal presentation, typed and submitted on the official recipe template. Acknowledgements and sources must be listed on each recipe in MLA formatting. Must be written in a logical sequence. See *Exhibit C for Recipe example*.
 - b. Recipe Costing: all recipe costing sheets for the meal presentation. Recipe cost must be calculated for each individual recipe, typed and submitted on the official costing template. See *Exhibit D for Recipe Cost example*.
 - i. Small amounts of kosher/table salt and black pepper may be priced at 1% of the total recipe cost. Everything else must be costed out.
 - ii. Oil for deep frying may be priced at 2% of the total recipe cost. Everything else must be costed out.
 - c. Menu Pricing: one menu price worksheet for each of the three courses, based on the recipe costs and calculated at a 33% food cost percentage. See *Exhibit E for Menu Price example*.
 - i. Each course on the presentation menu is priced separately.
 - ii. Menu price on the presentation menu may be rounded up after applying the 33% food cost percentage for a more realistic menu price.
 - iii. Final calculation before rounding must be indicated on costing template.
 - iv. Total menu price for the three-course meal may not exceed \$125.00 after applying the 33% food cost percentage.
 - d. Color Plate Photographs: an 8½" x 11" color photo of each plate. Final plates presented to the judges are compared to the photos provided.
 - e. Menu with prices and two selected knife cuts to be used: a simple, typed menu with menu prices printed on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper.
 - f. Please place all materials together by course. E.g. recipe, recipe costing, menu pricing, and color photograph of the starter would be placed together, followed by all materials for the entrée, etc.
 3. Binders/Folders are submitted to the judges at Product Check-In. Failure to submit the folders at Product Check-In will result in a penalty. See *Culinary Competition Penalties*.
 4. Each participating team also provides one (1) copy of a framed presentation menu:
 - a. Presentation menu is kept with team equipment and not turned in with folders.
 - b. Must include descriptions and final menu prices for each course.
 - c. Must include two selected knife cuts.
 - d. State or territory name must be clearly identified on presentation menu.
 - e. Must be displayed on the team's table during competition and then moved to the display area with the team's display plates.
 - f. No other additions to the display are allowed.

Role of the Optional Team Manager

1. In the Culinary competition, the one optional team manager may serve as an expeditor. The team manager may replace a team member in the workspace if a member is injured or unable to participate or continue.
 - a. If a team member cannot participate or continue, the team manager, with Lead Judge and Event Staff's approval, may replace that team member.

- b. The replaced team member, or any other competitor, may not return, step in for or replace the team manager. If the team manager replaces a team member, s/he must stay in the role for the remainder of the competition.
 - c. The replaced team member should leave the Culinary station and, at the discretion of the team's educator, may leave the event or may stay and watch as an observer. The replaced member is not permitted to communicate with their team from the moment they are replaced until after dishwashing.
2. Take note of rules specific to the team manager in each competition category.
 3. The team manager may talk to the team at any time and have printed materials such as timelines, recipes or notes to assist in keeping the team on track.
 4. The team manager is considered a part of the team and may not have any verbal or non-verbal communication with anyone outside the competition area.
 5. The team manager is an optional position; there are no additional provisions for teams without a team manager.

Uniform

1. Teams must present a uniform appearance from Product Check-In through dismissal to dishwashing.
2. Appropriate required apparel consists of:
 - a. Long sleeve, white chef coats
 - i. Logos and sponsor names are permitted on chef coats
 - ii. Accent colors are permitted, provided the chef coat remains white
 - b. Checkered or black pants
 - c. Nonporous, closed toe, non-slip, hard sole black shoes
 - d. Aprons and hats; hair must be restrained and covered with chef hat
 - e. Team manager will wear a colored arm band indicating his/her role
3. Hats and team manager's colored arm band will be provided by Event Organizers at Product Check-In. These items are required to be worn before or during Product Check-In. Teams should add these uniform items from competition report time through dishwashing.
4. Failure to be fully uniformed or in appropriate uniform components from Product Check-In through dismissal to dishwashing will result in a penalty. *See Culinary Competition Penalties*

Competition Flow

Day Prior to Competition:

Product Check-In (Open check-in during allocated time)

Day of Competition:

Report to Competition (15 Minutes)

Team & Menu Introduction (5 Minutes)

Production Mise En Place (20 Minutes)

Cook (60 Minutes – may present up to 3 minutes early)

Skills & Organization Critique (10 minutes)

Judges' Tasting Critique (10 Minutes)

Recipe & Menu Critique (5 minutes)

Station Clean-Up (20 Minutes)

Sanitation Critique & Dismissal (5 Minutes)

Dishwashing (Untimed)

1. *See Exhibit G for Sample Culinary Competition Timeline.*
2. Feedback occurs:

- a. On the competition floor for the Product Check-In, Work Skills/Organization, Team Presentation/Knife Skills, and Sanitation segments.
 - b. In the reserved judging area for Tasting and Menu & Recipe segments.
- 3. Team members are encouraged to ask questions during Feedback to learn from the experience.
- 4. A maximum of four (4) people comprised of designated teacher(s), mentor(s), and state coordinator(s) are allowed to be present to observe only during the Tasting & Menu critique sessions.
 - a. *Communication with the team is still prohibited.*

Product Check-In

1. It is the responsibility of each team to store all product prior to Product Check-In.
2. Product Check-In is the first segment of the evaluation process. The team manager is allowed to fully participate in the Product Check-In segment. Teams' teacher(s), mentor(s), and state coordinator(s) are allowed to be present in a designated space adjacent to the check-in tables to observe only during the Product Check-In process, including feedback. Team is judged according to:
 - a. Proper shipping and receiving procedures.
 - i. Complete printed product inventory list of every item contained in each cooler or other container holding food items must be attached to the inside and outside of the cooler and/or container. The list must be attached in a plastic sleeve. Inventory list must be submitted on the official Inventory template. See *Exhibit F for Inventory List example*.
 - ii. All ingredients must be turned in at Product Check-In.
 - iii. Proper temperature of ingredients must be maintained.
 - iv. If an item has been found to be in the temperature danger zone, the item will not be available for use in the competition. See #3 below.
 - b. Proper packaging.
 - i. Items should either be in their original packaging, or wrapped and packaged properly (i.e. no liquid pooling from meats, poultry or fish, no seeping liquid, vegetables and fruits in proper containers and/or bags), or they will be discarded.
 - c. Uniform and personal hygiene, including proper hand washing.
 - i. Hand washing stations are available in the Product Check-In area.
3. Any team that has a product disallowed during Product Check-In has until their assigned competition report time to present to the judges a replacement product for approval.
 - a. Judging and scoring is based on the initial check-in by the team.
 - b. Teams will lose points if their entire product list does not meet the established criteria at the original check-in.
 - c. Replacement product that does not meet requirements at competition report time will also be discarded. The team will be assessed an additional penalty for each failed submission.
4. All refrigerated product is placed on a provided speed rack during check-in. Teams are limited to the product that can fit on the speed rack due to limited walk-in cooler space. Freezer storage is not provided at any point.
5. Team should have all dry storage product collected in a single container ready to be checked in. Event site will provide secure dry storage space for teams.

6. Each team's food is placed in an appropriate and secure location at the competition site until the team's designated report time.
7. During Product Check-In, teams will be issued the dishes they ordered for their meal presentation. Teams have the opportunity to review their dishes at that time. Event Organizers are present with the original order forms the team submitted to confirm the order. Substitutions may be allowed on a case-by-case basis pending availability of dishes and circumstances of substitution request. All requests must be made to and approved by Event Organizers.
8. The previously prepared softbound folders are given to the judges at Product Check-In. Equipment and presentation menu are not turned in at this time.
9. Ingredients:

Permitted Ingredients	Prohibited Ingredients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team-prepared stocks • Team-prepared clarified butter • Team-prepared pre-soaked beans • Pre-measured staple dry goods: flour, sugar, salt, pepper, baking powder, baking soda, cream of tartar • Pre-measured butter and oil • Pre-washed produce* • Dry ice • Commercially manufactured food items such as jams, breadcrumbs, bases and mayonnaise in the original, sealed container or packaging. Must be used as an ingredient, not as a finished product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-chopped, pre-sliced, or pre-prepared food not commercially manufactured • Reductions, finished sauces, and clarified broths • Items that risk food illness
<p><i>*Team may also wash produce during Production Mise en Place.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Follow your state or school guidelines concerning alcohol in your recipes. MPSI permits the use of alcohol in Culinary competition recipes.</i></p>	

10. No equipment will be checked-in during this period. Teams are to bring all their equipment to the competition area at their assigned Competition Report Time.
11. Any shipped items should be addressed to the competitor, team educator, or state ProStart Coordinator directly. The MRLAEF is not responsible for tracking, obtaining, or holding any shipments prior to competition. Hotel/event personnel are only responsible for holding shipped items. Hotel/event site cannot accept items more than 3 days prior to the start of competition, and perishable items should not be shipped, as safe temperature storage cannot be guaranteed. Any items shipped are the sole responsibility of the recipient, and neither the MRLAEF, hotel, nor event staff are responsible for any lost, damaged, or spoiled items. Shipping directions will be sent to all State Coordinators prior to the event.
12. Should travel delays arise, and as a result a team is unable to check-in their ingredients during the times allotted, the team will be allowed to store those items in the MPSI refrigerated storage area. The team must contact their state ProStart Coordinator, who will contact the Event Organizers to make arrangements to access the storage area.
13. Product Check-In Feedback will occur immediately following each team's check-in.

Day of Competition

1. Team should arrive promptly to the Report to Competition area at their assigned report time to retrieve their cold and dry products.
2. Team will be introduced to their MRLAEF-assigned timer who will announce the start and end of each competition segment.
3. Teams will be allowed to place equipment on and/or otherwise organize their speed rack during their report time prior to entering the competition floor.
4. Team members should be prepared to carry and/or roll all their equipment and products onto the competition floor.
5. The team manager may assist in transporting the equipment and food products to the team's station, but may not assist in any organizing, unpacking, or set-up.

Team & Menu Introduction

Each participating team has five (5) minutes to verbally present its menu to judges. The team manager may fully participate in this section. During this time, students can anticipate:

- a. Telling what each team member is charged with executing.
- b. Describing their three-course meal.
- c. Explaining how they designed their unique menu.

Production Mise en Place

1. The team has twenty (20) minutes to pre-set their station for the meal production segment. All of the team's equipment must be contained within the 10' x 10' workspace (Equipment may not be stacked)
2. Team manager must stay on the outside of the "L" of the tables in the designated team manager workspace, and may not touch any equipment, products, or any other item on the table or production area.
3. During Production Mise en Place:

Teams are allowed to:	Teams are not allowed to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set their station• Obtain water and ice from designated areas on the competition floor• Obtain sanitizing solution from designated areas on the competition floor (provided by Event Organizers)• Measure dry and liquid ingredients• Wash produce at the vegetable washing station	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk to any spectators, coaches, educators, or mentors• Heat water or any liquid• Marinate any food (all marinating must be done during the 60-minute meal preparation period)• Perform any knife work• Begin cooking any items• Mix any ingredients

4. The MRLAEF-assigned timer will notify the team when the Production Mise en Place segment time ends and the Meal Production segment time begins.

Meal Production

1. Final meal production and all plating must be completed in the sixty (60) minute time period provided. MRLAEF-assigned timer will announce the time at regular intervals, becoming more frequent towards the end of meal production time. It is the responsibility of each team to know their start time and be ready to begin when their assigned time is announced.

- a. Teams may bring a manual or battery-operated timer; however, Event Organizers will keep and display the official time.
2. The team manager must stay on the outside of the “L” of the tables, and may not touch any equipment, products, or any other item on the table or production area. *See Exhibit A.*
 - a. The team manager may taste food throughout the competition. To do so, the team manager must carry his/her own supply of tasting spoons. Used, disposable tasting spoons may be discarded in the trashcans located on the shared space of the competition floor to avoid interfering with team station.
3. Knife Skills
 - a. Knife skills are demonstrated during the 60-minute Meal Production segment. Team Presentation/Knife Skills judges may evaluate knife cuts anytime during Meal Production segment.
 - b. The team must demonstrate a minimum of two (2) of eleven (11) specified knife cuts to incorporate in their meal.
 - c. Cuts must be demonstrated on fruits, vegetables, or herbs only.
 - i. Rondelle: $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick disc shaped slices
 - ii. Diagonal: $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick oval shaped slices
 - iii. Batonnet: Cut into long, thin, rectangular pieces $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2"
 - iv. Julienne: Cut into long, thin, rectangular pieces. $\frac{1}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 2"
 - v. Large Dice: Cube shaped $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "
 - vi. Medium Dice: Cube shaped $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
 - vii. Small Dice: Cube shaped $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ "
 - viii. Brunoise: Very small dice. $\frac{1}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ "
 - ix. Paysanne: Square cut $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{8}$ "
 - x. Chiffonade: Leafy green vegetables such as spinach or basil that are stacked, rolled tightly, and then cut into long thin strips. Approximate width is $\frac{1}{8}$ ".
 - xi. Tourne: football shape, $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, 2" long, seven equal sides and flat ended
 - d. Team must identify the selected cuts and ingredients used in their menu.
 - e. Team must set aside a 1oz. cup **volume** measurement for each knife cut for evaluation by Team Presentation/Knife Skills judges. Event staff will provide 1oz. containers.
4. A team is considered done cooking when each requirement is met:
 - a. The food is plated.
 - b. The dishes are on the service trays.
 - c. All team members have stepped away from the trays and raised their hands to signal they are finished.
 - i. Teams may present plates to judges up to three minutes before the 60-minute cooking time has completed. *See Culinary Competition Penalties.*
5. After a team completes their two (2) identical meals, the team will determine which meal will be evaluated by tasting judges and which will be for display.
 - a. Team members transport both service trays and their presentation menu to the judges' table and leave immediately. The team manager may accompany the team to the tasting area but may not carry plates or the menu.
 - b. The evaluation plates receive the most critical judging.
 - c. There should not be a major variance in composition of the finished plates. If there is a great variance, then the team will be assessed a penalty. If the second meal is not

presented, the team will be disqualified. See *Culinary Competition Penalties and Disqualifications*.

6. Team returns to their station for the Work Skills/Organization and Team Presentation/Proper Knife Usage feedback.
7. Judges have ten (10) minutes to evaluate the plates. At that time, the entire team (including the team manager) returns to the tasting area for a ten (10) minute feedback session. Only the designated teacher(s), mentor, and state coordinator for a total of four (4) people may accompany the team and listen to feedback.
8. The team will proceed next to the menu and recipe judges for a five (5) minute feedback session. Only the designated teacher, mentor, and state coordinator may accompany and listen to feedback.
9. Team then takes display plates and presentation menu to the display area. *Reminder: the team is still competing, and students may only converse with their teammates.*
10. Team returns to their station to begin Station Clean-up.

Station Clean-Up

1. Team has twenty (20) minutes to clean and vacate their station.
 - a. The team must return station to the condition it was in when they arrived.
 - b. The team manager is allowed to assist during Station Clean-Up.
 - c. Team or team member cannot leave the floor unless released by Sanitation judge and accompanied by their assigned timer.
2. Team receives the Sanitation feedback and is released for dishwashing.

Dishwashing

1. After teams receive Sanitation feedback, they may then collect supplies to be washed and bring all their equipment off the competition floor. Team members will be escorted by timekeepers to the appropriate area of the competition venue for dishwashing. *Reminder: the team is still competing and may only converse with their teammates.*
 - a. Teams should clean items so that food is clear from the equipment; however, teams do not need to sanitize, etc. A surface clean of all items is sufficient and will ensure that teams may move more quickly through the dishwashing process.
2. Once complete with dishwashing and released by their assigned timer, the team has officially completed the competition and may communicate freely.

Culinary Competition Penalties

The following are fixed deductions.

1. Menu does not meet specifications, or was not submitted on time i.e., by February 20th, 2023 to mschluchter@mrla.org – 5 pts
2. The team is not dressed in uniform – 5 pts
3. Team did not submit folders with menu, plate photographs, recipe and recipe costing at Product Check-In – 2 pts
4. Replacement product did not meet requirements and was discarded – 2 pts
5. Team manager touches or handles any equipment or food when not allowed – 5 pts
6. Team uses dishes/glassware other than those provided by Event Organizers – 5 pts
7. Team begins any competition segment before their assigned start time – ¼ pt to 10 pts
 - a. ¼ point is deducted per 15 seconds

- b. 10 or more minutes early, team is disqualified
8. Team does not complete any competition segment within their allotted time – ¼ pt to 10 pts
 - a. ¼ point is deducted per 15 seconds
 - b. After 10 minutes, team is disqualified
9. Use of prohibited equipment or pre-prepared ingredients – 5 pts
10. Team produces two meals, which are not identical – 2 pts
11. Station left in unsanitary manner – 3 pts

Culinary Specific Disqualifications

1. Team submitted work, or parts of work, that was previously submitted.
2. Team started any competition segment more than 10 minutes early or finished more than 10 minutes late.
3. Team used an electric/battery operated device or additional butane burner.
4. Team did not produce two (2) complete meals.
5. Violation of the General Disqualifications on page 5.

Event Personnel

1. Event Organizers: MRLAEF staff members
2. Volunteers: Assigned and trained by MRLAEF to assist with the event
3. Timekeepers: Personnel designated and trained by the MRLAEF, who are charged with keeping the official time for assigned teams during all segments of the competition.
4. Judges: Sourced from post-secondary education and the restaurant and foodservice industry, including two Co-Lead Judges. Lead Judges do not score teams.
 - a. All judges will be consistent from team to team (i.e. judges scoring team presentation/work skills will be responsible for that category across all competitors).
See Exhibit H for sample Culinary Competition Score Sheet.

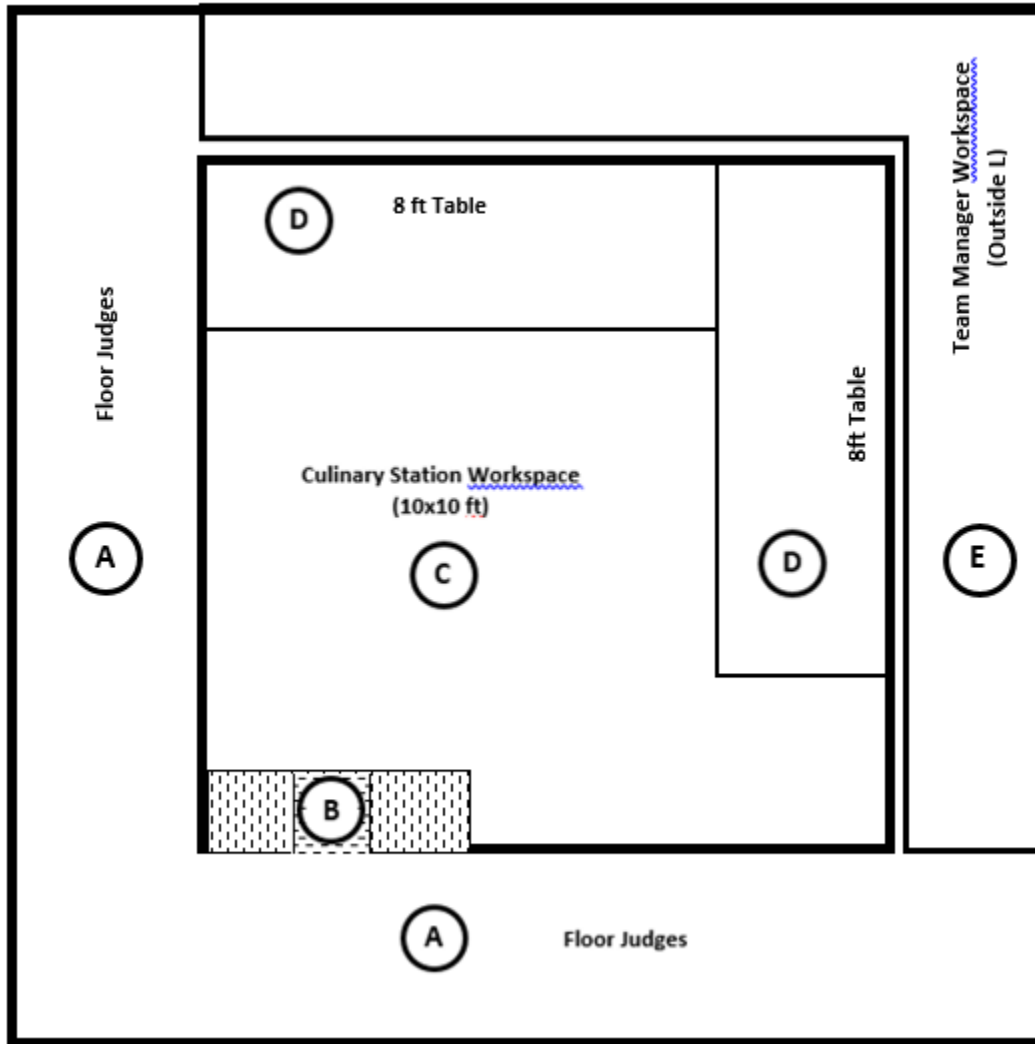
Post Competition

The softbound folders and framed presentation menu must be picked up by 6pm the day the team competes or the Event Organizers will dispose of unclaimed materials. Report to the registration desk with a team member's badge to claim the team folders. MRLAEF will retain one copy of the folder from each team.

Exhibit A – Culinary

Culinary Station Blueprint

Observers



- A. Competition floor outside of Culinary Station Workspace.
 - a. No team equipment should be in this area. Teams may access this area to use handwashing station. Floor judges have access to this space.
- B. Culinary Station Doorway
 - a. No team equipment should be in this area to leave a safe space to enter and exit the station. Approximately 2 ½ ft wide.
- C. Culinary Station Workspace (10ft x 10ft)
 - a. Teams must keep all materials inside designated area. Teams may store equipment under and around the tables.
 - b. Equipment may not be stacked.
- D. Two 8ft tables set up in “L” formation
 - a. Teams may not move or otherwise rearrange or readjust tables.
- E. Team Manager must stay in his/her designated space. Floor judges and the team’s timer will also have access to this space.

Note: This is a sample layout. The locations of tables, doorways, observer spaces, etc. are subject to change; however, general configuration will remain consistent. Image not to scale.

Exhibit B – Culinary

Deliverables Checklist Present at Product Check-In

Eight binders/folders, each containing

Example 1: https://www.staples.com/Avery-Flexible-5-Inch-Round-3-Ring-View-Binder-Blue-17670/product_614315

Example 2: http://www.staples.com/JAM-Paper-Plastic-2-Pocket-Eco-School-Folders-with-Metal-Tang-Fastener-Clasps-Clear-6-Pack-382ECCLDD-/product_2329283

- State or Territory and Year on cover
- Recipes typed on official template
- Recipe Costing Sheets typed on official template
- Menu Price Sheets typed on official templates
- Plate Photographs – A separate, 8½” x 11” color photograph of each plate
- Menu with Prices - Simple typed menu 8½” x 11”

Checklist of other items required

- Complete printed list of the contents of each cooler or dry storage container on the inside and outside of each cooler or container in a plastic sleeve (**State/territory name and year must be included on inside and outside list**).
- One copy of framed Presentation Menu

Exhibit C – Culinary

Recipe Example

Culinary teams must complete this form prior to the competition. Make eight (8) copies to include in the folders turned in at Product Check-In.

School Name	Awesome School		
Educator Name	Chef Jane Doe		

Menu Item	French Fries		
Number of Portions	4	Portion Size	5 ounces
Cooking Method(s)	Fry		
Recipe Source (MLA)	TNN. "French Fries Recipe." <i>Times Food</i> , https://recipes.timesofindia.com/us/recipes/french-fries/rs54659021.cms Accessed 30 June 2021.		

Ingredients	
Item	Amount
Potato	500 gm
Kosher Salt	TT
Black Pepper	TT
Frying Oil	AN

Procedure
<p>Chop potatoes and soak in ice-cold water for 10-15 minutes. Heat the oil in deep bottomed pan. Once hot, add the potatoes to the pan. Cook about 5 to 7 minutes.</p> <p>Remainder of procedures...</p>

Exhibit C – Culinary

Recipe Example

Culinary teams must complete this form prior to the competition. Make eight (8) copies to include in the folders turned in at Product Check-In.

School Name	Awesome School		
Educator Name	Chef Jane Doe		

Menu Item	Ratatouille		
Number of Portions	6	Portion Size	5 ounces
Cooking Method(s)	Sauté		
Recipe Source (MLA)	Lagasse, Emeril. "Ratatouille." <i>Food Network</i> , http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/emiril-lagasse/ratatouille-recipe0.html . Accessed 30 September 2016.		

Ingredients	
Item	Amount
Olive oil	¼ cup
Yellow onion, small dice	1 ½ cup
Garlic, minced	1 tsp
Eggplant, medium dice	2 cup
Thyme	½ tsp
Green bell pepper, diced	1 cup
Red bell pepper, diced	1 cup
Zucchini squash, diced	1 cup
Yellow squash, diced	1 cup
Tomatoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped	1 ½ cup
Basil, chiffonade	1 tbsp
Parsley, chopped	1 tbsp
Salt and black pepper	TT

Procedure
<p>Set a large 12-inch sauté pan over medium heat and add the olive oil. Once hot, add the yellow onions and garlic to the pan. Cook the onions, stirring occasionally, until they are wilted and lightly caramelized, about 5 to 7 minutes.</p> <p>Remainder of procedures...</p>

Exhibit D – Culinary

Recipe Cost Example

Culinary teams must complete this form prior to the competition. Make eight (8) copies to include in the folders turned in at Product Check-In.

School Name	Awesome School		
Educator Name	Chef Jane Doe		
Menu Item	French Fries		
Number of Portions	4	Portion Size	5 ounces

Ingredient	Purchase Unit	Purchase cost	Unit cost	Amount Needed	Ingredient Cost
Potatoes	5 kg	\$2.65	\$0.0005/g	500 g	\$0.25
Kosher Salt					
Black Pepper					
Frying Oil					

Subtotal	\$0.25
1 % for small amounts of spices (Q Factor)	\$0.003
2 % for frying oil	\$0.005
Total Recipe Cost	\$0.257
Portion Cost	\$0.064

Exhibit D – Culinary

Recipe Cost Example

Culinary teams must complete this form prior to the competition. Make eight (8) copies to include in the folders turned in at Product Check-In.

School Name	Awesome School		
Educator Name	Chef Jane Doe		
Menu Item	Ratatouille		
Number of Portions	6	Portion Size	5 ounces

Ingredient	Purchase Unit	Purchase cost	Unit cost	Amount Needed	Ingredient Cost
Olive oil	51 oz / 6.375 cup	\$16.79	\$2.634 / cup	¼ cup	\$0.658
Yellow onion, small dice	1 lb / 4 cup	\$1.40	\$0.35 / cup	1 ½ cup	\$0.525
Garlic, minced	1 head	\$0.50	\$0.10 / tsp	1 tsp	\$0.100
Eggplant, medium dice	1 lb / 3 cup	\$2.05	\$0.683 / cup	2 cup	\$1.367
Thyme	1 bunch / 18 tsp	\$2.09	\$0.116 / tsp	½ tsp	\$0.058
Green bell pepper, diced	1 lb / 4 cup	\$2.30	\$0.575 / cup	1 cup	\$0.575
Red bell pepper, diced	1 lb / 4 cup	\$1.07	\$0.268 / cup	1 cup	\$0.268
Zucchini squash, diced	1 lb / 2.5 cup	\$1.93	\$0.772 / cup	1 cup	\$0.772
Yellow squash, diced	1 lb / 2.5 cup	\$1.93	\$0.772 / cup	1 cup	\$0.772
Tomatoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped	1 lb / 2 cup	\$2.40	\$1.20 / cup	1 ½ cup	\$1.80
Basil, chiffonade	1 bunch / 1 cup	\$1.54	\$0.096 / tbsp	1 tbsp	\$0.096
Parsley, chopped	1 bunch / ½ cup	\$0.53	\$0.066 / tbsp	1 tbsp	\$0.066

Subtotal	\$7.057
1 % for small amounts of spices (Q Factor)	\$0.071
Total Recipe Cost	\$7.128
Portion Cost	\$1.212

Exhibit F – Culinary

Product Check-In Inventory List

Product Check-In Inventory Lists must be completed and contain the inventory list of every item, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER contained in each cooler or other container holding food items. Inventory forms must be attached to the inside and outside of the cooler and/or container. The list must be attached in a plastic sleeve.

School Name	Awesome School
Year	2023
Educator Name	Chef Jane Doe

Container Purpose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Storage
Number of Items in Container/Cooler	11	

Inventory List	
Item	Confirmed <i>(This column for judge use only)</i>
Basil	
Eggplant	
Garlic	
Green Bell Pepper	
Parsley	
Red Bell Pepper	
Thyme	
Tomatoes	
Yellow Onion	
Yellow Squash	
Zucchini	

Exhibit G – Culinary

Sample Culinary Competition Timeline

Team	Report	Team & Menu Introduction	Production Mise en Place	Start Cooking	Present Plates/ Skills Critique	Tasting Critique	Menu Critique	Clean Up	Sanitation Critique/ Dismissal	Out
1	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	8:05 AM	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	9:35 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	10:10 AM	10:15 AM
2	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	8:05 AM	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	9:35 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	10:10 AM	10:15 AM
3	8:05 AM	8:20 AM	8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM	10:05 AM	10:10 AM	10:30 AM	10:35 AM
4	8:05 AM	8:20 AM	8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	9:55 AM	10:05 AM	10:10 AM	10:30 AM	10:35 AM
5	8:25 AM	8:40 AM	8:45 AM	9:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM	10:30 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM
6	8:25 AM	8:40 AM	8:45 AM	9:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM	10:30 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM
7	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:05 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM	10:35 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	11:10 AM	11:15 AM
8	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:05 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM	10:35 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	11:10 AM	11:15 AM
9	9:05 AM	9:20 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	10:55 AM	11:05 AM	11:10 AM	11:30 AM	11:35 AM
10	9:05 AM	9:20 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	10:55 AM	11:05 AM	11:10 AM	11:30 AM	11:35 AM

Exhibit H – Culinary

Sample Culinary Competition Score Sheet

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	SCORE
Product Check-In						
Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper temperature • Proper packaging • Complete product inventory list(s) • Uniform and hygiene 	1	2	3	4	5	
Work Skills/Organization						
Work Organization/ Teamwork Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of a team plan • Mastery of skills required for individual tasks • Workload evenly distributed • Team cohesiveness • Communication • Professionalism • Proper Production Mise en Place • Proper time management 	1	2	3	4	5	
Proper Cooking Procedures Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate cooking method for product used • Required cooking techniques used minimum of two cooking methods from provided list • Cooking procedures done in a time efficient manner • Proper amount of product for recipe requirements • Effective use of remaining product • Proper pans and tools for intended use 	1	2	3	4	5	
Degree of Difficulty Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity • Complicated techniques • Preparation of item during competition rather than using commercial product 	1	2	3	4	5	
Team Presentation/Knife Skills						
Team Appearance Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White chef coats, long sleeve • Black or checkered pants • Uniform clean & presentable • Hard sole shoes • Hats, aprons, and arm band (provided) • Team uniformity 	1	2	3	4	5	
Proper Knife Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency • Accuracy • Safety • Waste 	1	2	3	4	5	

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	SCORE
Safety and Sanitation						
Follows Safety and Sanitation Procedures Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal hygiene • Proper knife safety • Proper use and handling of food contact surfaces 	1	2	3	4	5	
Proper Food Handling Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper use of gloves • Appropriate temperature control of ingredients • Proper sanitation practices regarding food contact surfaces • Proper storage of food • Avoidance of cross contamination 	1	2	3	4	5	
Work Area Cleaned Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work area cleaned in appropriate time frame • Return of station to original condition 	1	2	3	4	5	
Product Taste						
Product Taste – Starter A subjective category based on tasting judges' expertise	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	
Finished Product						
Appearance – Starter Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of color • Shape • Texture • Portion size 	1	2	3	4	5	
Product Taste						
Product Taste – Entrée A subjective category based on tasting judge's expertise	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	
Finished Product						
Appearance – Entrée Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of color • Shape • Texture • Portion size 	1	2	3	4	5	
Product Taste						
Product Taste – Dessert A subjective category based on judge's expertise	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	SCORE
Finished Product						
Appearance – Dessert Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of color • Shape • Texture • Portion size 	1	2	3	4	5	
Menu and Recipe Presentation						
Presentation Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typewritten • Recipe structure • Menu presentation • Recipe costing • Menu pricing • Within food cost guidelines • Sources and acknowledgements listed 	1	2	3	4	5	

DISQUALIFICATION
Reason for Disqualification:
<input type="checkbox"/> Team submitted work, or parts of work, that was previously submitted.
<input type="checkbox"/> Team started any competition segment more than 10 minutes early, or finished more than 10 minutes late. Disqualifying Segment _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Team used an electric/battery operated device or additional butane burner.
<input type="checkbox"/> Team did not produce two (2) complete meals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Violation of the General Disqualifications on page 5.
PENALTY
Reason for Penalty:
<input type="checkbox"/> Menu does not meet specifications, or was not submitted by February 20th, 2023 to mschluchter@mrla.org – 5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Team not dressed in uniform. 5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Team did not submit folders with menu, plate photographs, recipe and recipe costing at Product Check-In – 2 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement product did not meet requirements and was discarded – 2 pts.
<input type="checkbox"/> Team manager touches or handles any equipment or food when not allowed – 5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Team uses dishes/glassware other than those provided by Event Organizers – 5 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Team begins any competition segment before their assigned start time – ¼ pt to 10 pts ¼ point is deducted per 15 seconds 10 or more minutes early, team is disqualified
<input type="checkbox"/> Team does not complete any competition segment within their allotted time – ¼ pt to 10 pts ¼ point is deducted per 15 seconds After 10 minutes, team is disqualified
<input type="checkbox"/> Use of prohibited equipment or pre-prepared ingredients – 5 pts <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-prepared ingredients
<input type="checkbox"/> Team produces two meals, which are not identical – 2 pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Station left in unsanitary manner – 3 pts