



CITY OF

10,000
FLAVORS

A CULINARY COMPETITION
WHERE PASSION TAKES THE PLATE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Culinary Competition Judging Rubric - Novice

Total Possible Points: 100

1. Dish Complexity – 25 Points

Criteria	Points	Description
Technical Skill	0–10	Demonstrates mastery of cooking techniques (knife skills, temperature control, timing, etc.)
Ingredient Integration	0–10	Ingredients work cohesively; no element feels unnecessary or underdeveloped
Difficulty Level	0–5	Level of challenge appropriate to competition; thoughtful execution

Scoring Guide:

- 22–25: Advanced techniques executed flawlessly
 - 17–21: Strong technique with minor flaws
 - 10–16: Moderate difficulty or inconsistent execution
 - 0–9: Simple preparation or significant technical errors
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2. Presentation – 20 Points

Criteria	Points	Description
Visual Appeal	0–10	Plate is visually striking and appetizing
Composition & Balance	0–5	Thoughtful arrangement; appropriate portion size
Cleanliness & Professionalism	0–5	Clean plate, precise placement, intentional design

Scoring Guide:

- 18–20: Restaurant-quality plating
 - 14–17: Strong visual appeal with minor issues
 - 8–13: Adequate but lacks refinement
 - 0–7: Sloppy or unintentional presentation
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3. Flavor – 40 Points (Most Weighted)

Criteria	Points	Description
Taste & Seasoning	0–15	Proper seasoning; no overpowering elements
Balance	0–10	Harmony of sweet, salty, acid, bitter, umami
Texture	0–5	Pleasant contrast and mouthfeel
Overall Impact	0–10	Memorable, crave-worthy, cohesive flavor profile

Scoring Guide:

- 36–40: Exceptional, layered, and memorable
 - 28–35: Strong and enjoyable
 - 18–27: Inconsistent or lacking depth
 - 0–17: Major flavor issues
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4. Representation of the Individual Cook – 15 Points

Criteria	Points	Description
Creativity	0–5	Originality and innovation
Personal Story/Influence	0–5	Dish reflects background, culture, or philosophy
Intent & Concept Clarity	0–5	Clear vision and purpose behind the dish

Scoring Guide:

- 13–15: Strong personal voice and identity
 - 9–12: Some personal influence evident
 - 5–8: Limited individuality
 - 0–4: Generic or lacks concept
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Tie-Breaker Rule

If scores are tied, the higher **Flavor** score prevails. If still tied, judges deliberate on overall impact.