



Culinary Challenge 2026

Bought to you by the Australian Culinary Federation

31st August – 3rd September 2026

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Introduction

Chefs, Trainees, and Apprentices!

Are you ready to put your culinary skills to the ultimate test? This is your chance to compete with the best in the industry on a prestigious stage that celebrates talent, creativity, and excellence.

This high-energy competition offers more than just bragging rights—it's your opportunity to earn recognition, prizes, and professional acclaim. Participants will go head-to-head under pressure, showcasing their abilities in front of a live audience and a panel of distinguished judges accredited by the Australian Culinary Federation (ACF).

This year's exciting lineup includes:

- **ACF National Apprentice Competition**
- **ACF Most Outstanding Chef**
- **ACF Team Challenges**
- **Nestlé Golden Chefs Hat Award Final Series**
- *...and many more thrilling events!*

Proudly presented by the Australian Culinary Federation and ACF Victoria, this event is dedicated to promoting culinary excellence and providing a world-class competitive environment for chefs at every stage of their journey.

Whether you're just starting out or already a seasoned competitor, this is your moment to shine. Show the world your passion, precision, and innovation in a setting that celebrates the very best of the culinary arts.

Don't miss your chance to be part of one of Australia's most prestigious culinary showcases. Step up to the plate—we can't wait to see you in action!

Warm culinary regards,

Jacqueline Bates

Director, Australian Culinary Federation – Victoria

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Competition Schedule

Monday 31st August

7.30am	Sweet Buffet Centrepieces Petit Fours & Pralines
7.30 – 2pm	Nestle Golden Chefs Hat Award
10am - 5pm	Individual Live Challenges
11am	Static Medal Presentations
1pm – 5pm	TBC

Tuesday 1st September

7.30am	Sugar Paste Cakes Wacky Cakes
7.30 – 2pm	Nestle Golden Chefs Hat Award
11am	Static Medal Presentations
2.30pm – 5pm	Street Food Challenge

Wednesday 2nd September

7.30am	4 different Desserts Torte or Gateaux for 8
11am	Static Medal Presentations
10am – 5pm	Team Challenge Competition

National Apprentice Competition

9am – 11am	1 st Year Apprentice Cooks
11am – 2pm	2 nd Year Apprentice Cooks
2pm-5pm	Culinary Students
1pm	NAC 1st Year Medal Presentation
3pm	NAC 2nd Year Medal Presentation
5pm	Team Challenge Medal Presentation NAC Culinary Student Medal Presentation

Thursday 3rd September

8am – 1pm	Yum Cha Challenge
8am – 1pm	National Apprentice Competition Final Year Apprentice Cooks
2pm	Awards Presentation (Venue TBC)

Street Food Challenge

Tuesday 1st

1pm – 5pm

6 teams of two (2) Chefs.

Each team will serve fifteen (15) portions of one (1) savoury dish suitable to be served from food truck or at a food fair served in sustainable packaging.

The Team with the highest score with Gold Medal will receive over \$500 in cash and/or prizes.

Y4 Street Food Live Kitchen Challenge

Two (2) Competitors per team have (90) minutes to prepare & cook & serve fifteen (15) portions of one (1) savoury dish. Four (4) for judges, one (1) for photography, ten (10) for service in lounge

When presenting to the judges you will have 3 minutes to explain why your dish is unique in the Street Food arena, you must supply menu, recipe & packaging data sheet

Packaging Criteria:

Must be able to hold in one hand and eat with other

Is it original?

Can it be produced economically?

Is it recyclable?

Is it eco-friendly?

Timing: will be a rolling start at 20-minute intervals Timing TBC

1.00pm	Competitors on sight with all food & equipment
1.15pm	Competition Briefing
1.30pm	Access to kitchens to set up
1.45pm	Kitchen 1 starts
2.05pm	Kitchen 2 starts
2.25pm	Kitchen 3 starts
2.45pm	Kitchen 4 starts
3.05pm	Kitchen 5 starts
3.25pm	Kitchen 6 starts
3.15pm	Kitchen 1 presents
3.25pm	Kitchen 2 presents
3.35pm	Kitchen 3 presents
3.55pm	Kitchen 4 presents
4.10pm	Kitchen 5 presents
4.20pm	Kitchen 6 presents
5.00pm	All Kitchens to be clean

If you miss your presentation slot, the judges will taste your dishes when they are next able to.

(late time penalties will apply)

Judges Feedback will be given to teams individually during the cleanup time.

All food handling from delivery, preparation and service must be food safety compliant.

Scrutineers will inspect all food upon delivery and must be HACCP compliant

Street Food Challenge Ingredient Rules

What you can bring into the competition

- Basic stock, mother sauces – are permitted but must have further fabrication
Samples must be supplied for tasting
- Salads - cleaned, washed
- Vegetables, fruits cleaned & cut/trimmed (any shape) But must be raw
 - vegetables like tomatoes may be blanched and peeled
 - broad beans may be shelled
 - vegetable/fruit purées can be brought in, but not reduced, seasoned or thickened. Final sauce or coulis must be prepared on site. Samples must be supplied for tasting
 - Dried fruit / or vegetable powder permitted
 - Dehydrated fruit or sheets permitted
 - Vegetable ash and home-made spice mixture are permitted
- Fish - gutted, scaled, filleted / portioned if required BUT must be raw
- Crustaceans - raw or boiled, peeled
- Meat/Poultry/Game
 - deboned, portioned, trimmed minced or ground & marinated
 - Liver and sweetbreads can be brought in soaked in milk, but not seasoned or flavoured
 - Bones for stock - bones (including extra) can be brought in cut into small pieces
 - The use of transglutaminase (Meat glue) is not permitted
- Smoked fish, prosciutto, chorizo, bacon, are allowed as long as they are further processed in the kitchen.
- Pasta & other dough can be premade rolled, shaped or flavoured.
- Rice – can be brought in precooked & flavoured.
- Decor elements - 100 % done on site.
 - No titanium dioxide – no metallic powder no artificial food colours are permitted.
 - Do not use gold or silver leaf.
- Eggs - can be separated and pasteurized but not processed in any other way.
- Dry ingredients - can be weighed and measured.
- Flavoured Butters & oils are allowed.

Street Food Competition Judging

Each Team starts with 100 points and points are deducted in accordance with the following measurable elements:

Mis En Place	5 points
Clean Arrangement of materials	1
Personal Presentation	1
Set up workstation – proper working technique	1
Correct Mise en place level	2
Hygiene & Food Waste	10 points
Clean hygienic work techniques	2
Workflow been adhered to & followed	1
Clear Benches not cluttered	1
Correct Storage of Food items	2
Temperature Control on Food items – hot & cold	2
Control on excess & food waste	1
Limitation on plastic waste	1
Professional Preparation	15 Points
Correct basic methods of food preparation	3
Preparation should be by practical, that exclude unnecessary ingredients.	3
Appropriate cooking techniques must be applied for all ingredients	3
Proper working technique and attention paid to hygiene	2
Review of all food waste including excess items.	2
Review of teamwork or the time to make items or serve them.	2
Innovation	5 points
The introduction of a new technique or significantly improving and existing dish	3
New style of dishing presentation that enhances to customer/judge's expectation.	2
Service	5 Points
Correct number of plates must be presented.	
The meals, should be practical, transportable	
Timeline adhered to, penalised one point for each minute delayed	
Presentation	10 Points
Suitable temperature	1
Appropriate to class/true to menu description	1
Clean arrangement	1
Originality/flair	2
Portion size	1
Nutritional balance	1
Sustainable Packaging	1
What makes the dish Unique	2
Taste	50 Points
Does the major component taste good	8
Does the sauce/garnish taste good	6
Do the complements add to the taste of the major ingredient	6
Is there harmony of flavour combinations in menu	6
Balance of textures	6

Balance of flavours	6
Seasoning	6
Taste of food preserved	6

Team Challenge

Wednesday 2nd

2 heats, maximum 6 teams per heat

Heat 1 9am – 12noon

Heat 2 2pm – 5pm

The Team with the highest score with a Gold Medal will receive over \$500 in cash and/or prizes.

Y6 Team Challenge

Maximum twelve (12) teams, two (2) chefs per team consisting of one (1) qualified chef & one (1) apprentice or trainee or student. (no age restriction if currently enrolled). Or completed apprentice or trainee or student under 25 years of age.

They will have 3 hours to prepare cook & serve a balanced three (3) course menu for three (3) covers two (2) for judging & one (1) for photography

1. Vegetarian Entrée
2. Main course using your choice of protein (Meat / Fish /Poultry or plant based)
3. Dessert

Teams will be required to supply all their own ingredients as per the 100% rule on page 9

Heat 1

8.00 – 9am	Competitor briefing & kitchen set up
9am	Commence competition
10.50 – 11.00	Entrée presented
11.20 – 11.30	Main presented
11.50 – 12.00	Dessert presented
12.00 – 13.00	Clean down

Heat 2

13.00 – 14.00	Competitor briefing & kitchen set up
14.00	Competition commences
15.50 – 16.00	Entrée presented
16.20 – 16.30	Main presented
16.50 – 17.00	Dessert presented
17.00 – 18.00	Clean down

Plates are to be presented 2 for judges, 1 for photography

- The times have been strictly allocated for each course.
- Please adhere to these times as a penalty for going over the time is deducted from your marks
- The timing is assessed when the last of all three (3) plates have been presented for each course
- Times indicate the earliest and latest for each presentation.

All food handling from delivery, preparation and service must be food safety compliant.

Scrutineers will inspect all food upon delivery and must be HACCP compliant

Team Competition Ingredient Rules

What you can bring into the competition

- Basic stock/mother sauces— can be brought in, but must have further fabrication Samples must be supplied for tasting
- Salads - cleaned, washed but not mixed or cut
- Vegetables can be cut/trimmed (any shape) **BUT** must be raw
 - vegetables like tomatoes may be blanched and peeled
 - broad beans may be shelled
 - Dried Vegetable powder permitted
 - Vegetable ash & homemade spice mixture permitted
- Fish – gutted, scaled can be filleted / portioned if required BUT must be raw
- Shellfish / Crustaceans – clean raw can be removed from shell
- Meat/Poultry/Game
 - deboned, can be portioned, trimmed BUT must be raw
 - proteins cannot be minced or ground
 - sausages must be made on site
 - raw liver and sweetbread can be soaked in milk but not seasoned or marinated
 - The use of transglutaminase (Meat glue) is not permitted
- Smoked fish, prosciutto, chorizo, bacon, are allowed as long as they are further processed in the kitchen.
- Pasta & other doughs allowed can be flavoured and rolled into sheets but not portioned and not cooked
- Pastry sponge, biscuit
 - can be brought in, but not cut, sliced or stencilled
 - macarons need to be baked on premise, mixture may be bought in
- Fruit pulps and Fruit purees
 - can be brought in, but not reduced, seasoned or thickened. Final sauce or coulis must be prepared on site. Samples for tasting.
 - Dried fruit powder permitted
 - Dehydrated fruit or sheets permitted
- Decor elements - 100 % done on site
 - No titanium dioxide – no metallic powder no artificial food colours are permitted
 - Do not use gold or silver leaf
- Eggs - can be separated and pasteurized, but not processed in any other way
- Dry ingredients - can be Pre weighed and measured
- Flavoured oils & butters are allowed

Team Competition Judging

Each Team starts with 100 points and points are deducted in accordance with the following measurable elements:

Mis En Place	5 points
Clean Arrangement of materials	1
Personal Presentation	1
Set up workstation – proper working technique	1
Correct Mise en place level	2
Hygiene & Food Waste	10 points
Clean hygienic work techniques	2
Workflow been adhered to & followed	1
Clear Benches not cluttered	1
Correct Storage of Food items	2
Temperature Control on Food items – hot & cold	2
Control on excess & food waste	1
Limitation on plastic waste	1
Professional Preparation	15 Points
Correct basic methods of food preparation	3
Preparation should be by practical, that exclude unnecessary ingredients.	3
Appropriate cooking techniques must be applied for all ingredients	3
Proper working technique and attention paid to hygiene	2
Review of all food waste including excess items.	2
Review of teamwork or the time to make items or serve them.	2
Innovation	5 points
The introduction of a new technique or significantly improving and existing dish	3
New style of dishing presentation that enhances to customer/judge's expectation.	2
Service	5 Points
Correct number of plates must be presented.	
The meals, should be practical, transportable	
Timeline adhered to, penalised one point for each minute delayed	
Presentation	10 Points
Suitable temperature	1
Appropriate to class/true to menu description	2
Clean arrangement & dish	2
Originality/flair	2
Portion size	1
Nutritional balance	2
Taste	50 Points
Does the major component taste good	8
Does the sauce/garnish taste good	6
Do the complements add to the taste of the major ingredient	6
Is there harmony of flavour combinations in menu	6
Balance of textures	6
Balance of flavours	6

Yum Cha Team Challenge

Thursday 3rd

6 Teams of two (2) Chefs. Each team will serve 5 portions, one (1) piece each of (5) different dishes steamed, baked, or fried with accompanying sauce or dip.

The Team with the highest score with a Gold Medal will receive over \$500 in cash and/or prizes.

Y5 Yum Cha Live Kitchen Challenge

Two (2) Competitors per team have (60) minutes to prepare & cook and twenty (20) minutes to serve 25 pieces of Yum Cha cuisine with appropriate garnishes and sauces, using duck, pork, seafood, beef, and vegetables with accompanying sauces.

- 1 x duck dish (5 pieces)
- 1 x pork dish (5 pieces)
- 1 x seafood dish (5 pieces)
- 1 x beef dish (5 pieces)
- 1 x vegetarian dish (5 pieces)

4 portions of 1 piece each of duck, pork, seafood, beef, vegetarian to be presented on 4 separate plates, three (3) for judges & one (1) for photograph. The rest of the portions to be served in individual sustainable containers (supplied) & offered to the public in the Chefs Lounge

Competitors will need to supply their own plates and display materials for 3 Judges & photography

Timing: will be a rolling start at 20-minute intervals

From 7.30am	Competitors to be on site with all the food & equipment
8am- 8.15am	Competition Briefing & Judge introduction.
8.15- 9am	Competitors set their allocated kitchen
9.00am	Kitchen 1 starts
9.20am	Kitchen 2 starts
9.40am	Kitchen 3 starts
10.00am	Kitchen 4 starts
10.20am	Kitchen 5 starts
At 10.40 pm	Kitchen 6 starts.
At 10.00 am	Kitchen 1 serves to judges.
10.20 am	Kitchen 2 serves to judges.
10.40 am	Kitchen 3 serves to judges.
At 11.00 am	Kitchen 4 serves to judges.
At 11.20 am	Kitchen 5 serves to judges.
At 11.40 pm	Kitchen 6 serves to judges.
13.00 pm	All kitchens to be clean.

**If you miss your presentation slot, the judges will taste your dishes when they are next able to.
(timing penalties will apply)**

Judges Feedback will be given to teams individually during the cleanup time.

All food handling from delivery, preparation and service must be food safety compliant.
Scrutineers will inspect all food upon delivery and must be HACCP compliant

Yum Cha Challenge Ingredients Rule

What you can bring into the Competition

- Basic stock/mother sauces– can be brought in, but must have further fabrication Samples must be supplied for tasting
- Salads - cleaned, washed but not mixed or cut
- Vegetables can be cut/trimmed (any shape) BUT must be raw
 - vegetables like tomatoes may be blanched and peeled
 - broad beans may be shelled
 - Dried Vegetable powder permitted
 - Vegetable ash and home-made spice mixture are permitted
- Fish - gutted, scaled can be filleted / portioned if required BUT must be raw
- Shellfish / Crustaceans - raw or boiled, not peeled
- Meat/Poultry
 - deboned, can be portioned, trimmed BUT must be raw
 - may be bought in minced or ground (not to be pre seasoned)
 - sausages have to be made on site
 - raw liver and sweetbread can be soaked in milk but not seasoned or marinated
 - The use of transglutaminase (Meat glue) is not permitted
- Smoked fish, prosciutto, chorizo, bacon, are allowed as long as they are further processed in the kitchen
- Pasta & other doughs allowed can be flavoured and rolled into sheets but not portioned and not cooked
- Pastry sponge, biscuit, meringue & dough
 - can be brought in, but not cut, sliced or chopped or stencilled
 - macarons need to be baked onsite, mixture may be bought in
- Fruit pulps and fruit purees
 - can be brought in, but not reduced, seasoned or thickened. Final sauce or coulis must be prepared on site. Samples for tasting
 - Dried fruit powder permitted
 - Dehydrated fruit or sheets permitted
- Decor elements - 100 % done on site
 - No titanium dioxide – no metallic powder no artificial food colours are permitted
 - Do not use gold or silver leaf
- Rice – can be brought in precooked & flavoured
- Bones for stock - bones (including extra) can be brought in cut into small pieces
- Eggs - can be separated and pasteurised but not processed in any other way

- Dry ingredients
 - can be weighed and measured
 - Dry ingredients can be presoaked.
- Flavoured oils & butters are allowed

Yum Cha Challenge Judging

Each Team starts with 100 points and points are deducted in accordance with the following measurable elements:

Mis En Place	5 points
Clean Arrangement of materials	1
Personal Presentation	1
Set up workstation – proper working technique	1
Correct Mise en place level	2
Hygiene & Food Waste	10 points
Clean hygienic work techniques	2
Workflow been adhered to & followed	1
Clear Benches not cluttered	1
Correct Storage of Food items	2
Temperature Control on Food items – hot & cold	2
Control on excess & food waste	1
Limitation on plastic waste	1
Professional Preparation	15 Points
Correct basic methods of food preparation	3
Preparation should be by practical, that exclude unnecessary ingredients.	3
Appropriate cooking techniques must be applied for all ingredients	3
Proper working technique and attention paid to hygiene	2
Review of all food waste including excess items.	2
Review of teamwork or the time to make items or serve them.	2
Innovation	5 points
The introduction of a new technique or significantly improving and existing dish	3
New style of dishing presentation that enhances to customer/judge's expectation.	2
Service	5 Points
Correct number of plates must be presented.	
The meals, should be practical, transportable	
Timeline adhered to, penalised one point for each minute delayed	
Presentation	10 Points
Suitable temperature	1
Appropriate to class/true to menu description	2
Clean arrangement & dish	2
Originality/flair	2
Portion size	1
Nutritional balance	2
Taste	50 Points
Does the major component taste good	8
Does the sauce/garnish taste good	6
Do the complements add to the taste of the major ingredient	6
Is there harmony of flavour combinations in menu	6
Balance of textures	6
Balance of flavours	6
Seasoning	6

Street Food, Yum Cha & Team Challenge Equipment

Available Equipment - Each Kitchen:

6lt S/S Saucepan	1	Gastro Trays GN 1/1	1
4lt S/S Saucepan	1	Gastro Trays GN 1/2	1
2lt S/S Saucepan	1	Gastro Trays GN 1/8	1
26 Cm Sauté/Fry Pan	1	Measuring Jug	1
22 Cm Sauté/Fry Pan	1	Grater	1
Chinois	1	Silpat Mat	1
Colander	1	Rolling Pin	1
S/S Mixing Bowls	1 set	Main Course Plates (team challenge only)	6
Chopping Boards	2	Sustainable Containers (Yum Cha Only)	21
Plastic Trays	2		
Cooling Racks	2		
Oven Trays	2		
Baking Trays	2		

Fixed Equipment

Available Equipment - Each Kitchen:

- 1 x 6 burner gas oven range with bottom oven
- 1 x 10 tray electric combi oven Turbo Fan EC40D5
- 1 x Under bench fridge
- 1 x sink
- 1 x hand basin
- 2 x 600 x 1800mm prep benches
- 2 x 10amp power point
- 1 x Polyscience Sous Vide Professional Thermo Regulator on 18 litre baths
- 1 x Robot Coupe stick blender
- 1 x smoking gun

To share if required

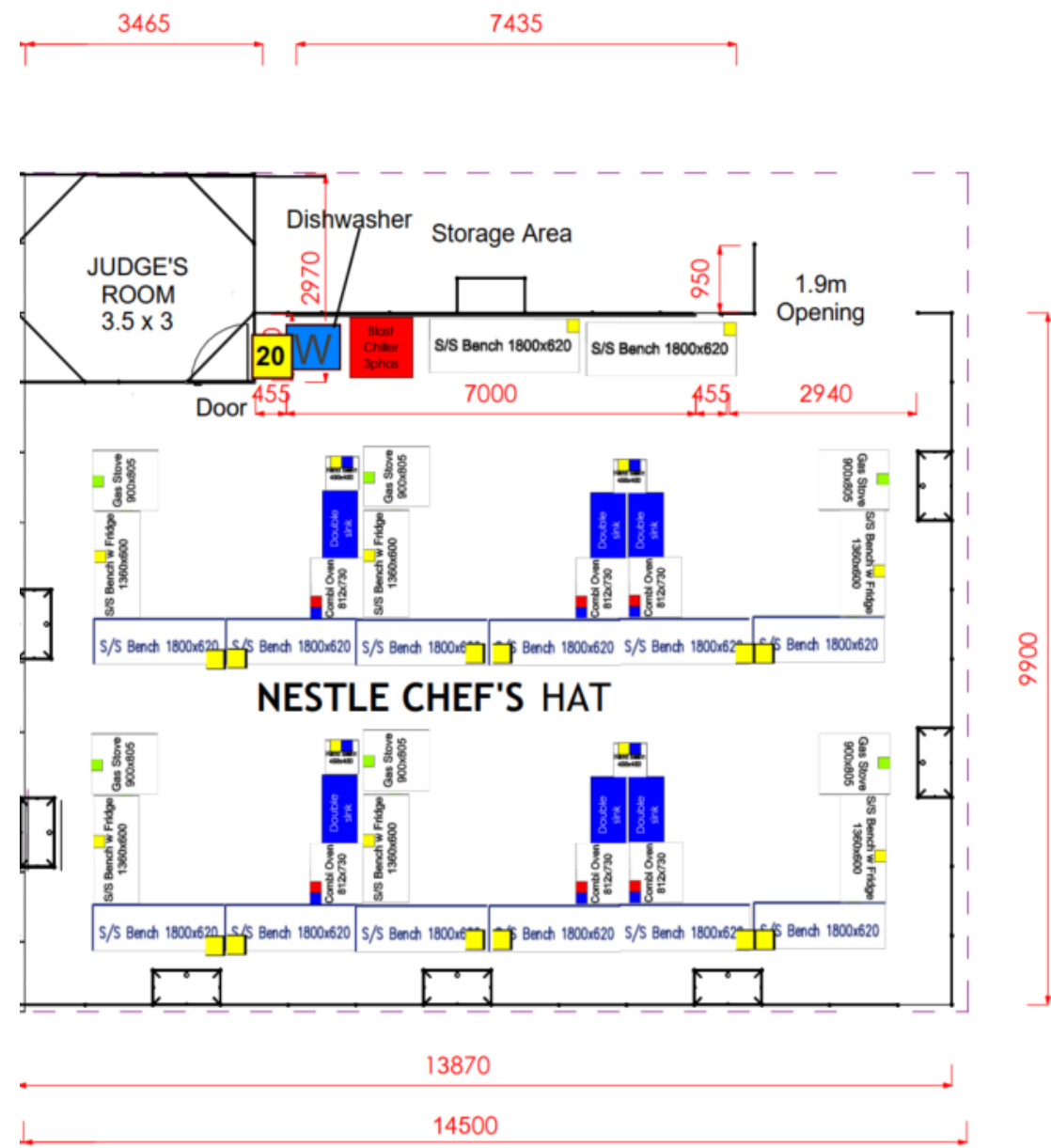
- Henkelman Jumbo 35 chamber vacuum machine with assorted sized vacuum bags
- Blast Chiller
- 3 Planetary Mixer
- 2 Robot Cook
- 2 Robot Coupe Food Processors



All other equipment needs to be brought in by the competitor.

Competitors must supply all other utensils and equipment for their entry, including any crockery required for presentation. Competitors may bring steamers, woks, bamboo baskets, platters or other specialised equipment. All competitors must wear a chef's uniform consisting of, Chef's jacket, Chefs pants, Necktie, Apron, Chef's hat, appropriate safety shoes.

Street Food, Yum Cha, Team Challenge Kitchen Plan **TBC**



Most Outstanding Categories

B1. ACF Most Outstanding Chef 2026

The chef with the highest aggregate score will receive over \$1000 in cash and/or prizes and will be crowned 2026 ACF Most Outstanding Chef.

To be eligible to win you must compete in three (3) open live classes (F1 – F4) You must achieve at least one (1) Gold Medal. Competitors must supply the judge's complete recipes for all dishes as well as description cards.

B2. ACF Most Outstanding Apprentice/Trainee Chef 2026

The apprentice / trainee with the highest aggregate score will receive over \$500 in cash and/or prizes and will be crowned 2026 ACF Most Outstanding Apprentice / Trainee.

To be eligible to win you must compete in three (3) Apprentice/Trainee live classes (F1A – F4A) You must achieve at least one (1) Gold Medal. Competitors must supply the judge's complete recipes for all dishes as well as description cards.

B3. ACF Most Outstanding Pastry Chef 2026

The pastry chef with the highest aggregate score will receive over \$1000 in cash and/or prizes and will be crowned 2026 ACF Most Outstanding Pastry Chef.

To be eligible to win you must compete in 1 open live class F10 and 2 open static classes S2 & S3, you must achieve at least one (1) Gold Medal

B4. ACF Most Outstanding Pastry Apprentice / Trainee 2026

The Apprentice / Trainee with the highest aggregate score will receive over \$500 in cash and/or prizes and will be crowned 2026 ACF Most Outstanding Pastry Apprentice / Trainee.

To be eligible to win you must compete in 1 open live class F10A and 2 open static classes S2A & S3A You must achieve at least one (1) Gold Medal

B5. Best Sweet Centerpiece in show

The highest scoring sweet centerpiece with a Gold Medal will receive \$250 in cash and/or prizes.

You must achieve a Gold Medal

B6. Most Outstanding Establishment

Trophy awarded to the establishment with the highest aggregate score over all categories and all competitions

Criteria for Medals Awarded

Gold with distinction	100 points confirmed by 3 judges.
Gold medal	90-99 points.
Silver medal	80-89 points.
Bronze medal	70-79 points.
Certificate of merit	60-69 points.

All competitors will receive a certificate of participation and will be awarded medals according to points awards.

Medals for static classes will be awarded in the ACF chefs lounge daily at 11:00am.

Live competition classes will be awarded immediately after the class.

All major awards and overall winners will be announced at time & venue to be confirmed. All competitors **MUST** be in full uniform to receive any medals or awards.

Open Live Cooking Competition Classes

F1 Lamb, Beef, Veal Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, using a cut of Lamb, Beef or Veal 100% rule applies.

F2 Seafood Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have Sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes using fish and seafood. 100% rule applies.

F3 Poultry Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, using Poultry (any feathered Bird). 100% rule applies.

F4 Plant Based or Vegetarian Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, 100% rule applies.

F5 Live Noodle Challenge

Definition: a very thin, long strip of pasta or a similar flour paste, eaten with a sauce or in a soup. Asian or European
Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnish & sauce, individually plated. 100% rule applies.

F6 Cultural & Heritage Cuisine Live Challenge

This dish should reflect the heritage & cultural traditions; it may encompass a unique style or culinary philosophy.
Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnish & sauce, individually plated. 100% rule applies.

F7 Burger Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) burger, cooking two (2) portions. Must be composed and served on a bun or other bread products (such as bread, focaccia, or tortillas). Burgers may contain protein or be vegetarian & include any combination of condiments, sauces, cheeses and toppings. Every component of the burger must be placed between the bun or bread pieces or served open-faced on a bread product. No sides to be served. 100% rule applies.

F10 Dessert Live Challenge

Competitors have (90) ninety minutes to prepare two (2) portions of two (2) desserts with appropriate garnishes, individually plated and suitable for an A la Carte restaurant service. 100% rule applies. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

Apprentice Trainee Live Cooking Competition Classes

F1A Lamb, Beef, Veal Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, using a cut of Lamb, Beef or Veal 100% rule applies.

F2A Seafood Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes using fish and seafood. 100% rule applies.

F3A Poultry Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, using Poultry. 100% rule applies.

F4A Plant Based or Vegetarian Main Course Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnishes, 100% rule applies. vegetarian. (4) portions of each with appropriate garnish & sauce, combination hot and cold 10-20g

F5A Live Noodle Challenge

Definition: a very thin, long strip of pasta or a similar flour paste, eaten with a sauce or in a soup. Asian or European
Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnish & sauce, individually plated. 100% rule applies.

F6A Cultural & Heritage Cuisine Live Challenge

This dish should reflect the heritage & cultural traditions; it may encompass a unique style or culinary philosophy supported by a brief.

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) main course, cooking two (2) portions with appropriate garnish & sauce, individually plated. 100% rule applies.

F7A Burger Live Challenge

Competitors have sixty (60) minutes to prepare & serve one (1) burger, cooking two (2) portions.

Must be composed and served on a bun or other bread products (such as bread, focaccia, or tortillas).

Burgers may contain protein or be vegetarian & include any combination of condiments, sauces, cheeses and toppings. Every component of the burger must be placed between the bun or bread pieces or served open-faced on a bread product. No sides to be served. 100% rule applies.

F10A Dessert Live Challenge

Competitors have (90) ninety minutes to prepare two (2) portions of two (2) desserts with appropriate garnishes, individually plated and suitable for an A la Carte restaurant service.

100% rule applies.

No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

Live Cooking Competition Criteria

Live cooking challenges will be held on Monday 31st August & Tuesday 1st September

Competitors must be able to commence ten (10) minutes prior to their allocated time. Points will be deducted for kitchens left in an untidy manner.

Competitors must supply a menu; workflow plans and recipe cards for judging on the day of the competition. The recipes will become the property of Australian Culinary Federation and its sponsors to be used at their discretion.

Competition Times for F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F1A, F2A, F3A, F4A, F5A, F6A, F7A:

Time limit is (60) minutes.

All competitors must register on the day of their session no later than 30 minutes before their start time. Access to the kitchens will be (15) minutes only prior to starting for set-up, the time limit is (60) minutes to cook and plate then competitors will have (15) minutes to clean down. All efforts will be made to ensure the competition starts on time although delays may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Competition Times for F10 and F10A: Time limit is (90) minutes.

All competitors must register their arrival on the day for their session no later than 30 minutes before starting time (Competitors will be given their allotted time prior to competition via correspondence) Access to the kitchens will be (15) minutes only prior to starting for set-up and competitors will have (15) minutes to clean down.

Timing

Points will be deducted at a rate of one (1) point per minute up to and including five (5) minutes for late service. Over five (5) minutes will result in disqualification. Wastage will be considered.

Medals will be awarded shortly after the conclusion of your heat unless notified otherwise

FEEDBACK

The Individual competitor will be given feedback on their competition day.

Live Cooking Competition Ingredient Rules

What you can bring in

- Basic stock/mother sauces– can be brought in but must have further fabrication. Samples must be supplied for tasting
- Salads - cleaned, washed but not mixed or cut
- Vegetables can be cut/trimmed (any shape) **BUT** must be raw
 - vegetables like tomatoes may be blanched and peeled
 - broad beans may be shelled
 - Dried vegetable powder permitted
 - Vegetable ash & home-made spice mixture are permitted
- Fish – gutted, scaled can be filleted / portioned if required BUT must be raw
- Shellfish / Crustaceans – cleaned raw can be removed from shell
- Meat/Poultry/Game
 - deboned, can be portioned, trimmed BUT must be raw
 - proteins cannot be minced or ground
 - sausages must be made on site
 - raw liver and sweetbread can be soaked in milk but not seasoned or marinated
 - The use of transglutaminase (Meat glue) is not permitted
- Smoked fish, prosciutto, chorizo, bacon, are allowed as long as they are further processed in the kitchen.
- Pasta & other doughs allowed can be flavoured and rolled into sheets but not portioned and not cooked
- Pastry sponge, biscuit
 - can be brought in, but not cut, sliced or stencilled
 - macarons need to be baked on premise, mixture may be bought in
- Fruit pulps and Fruit purees
 - can be brought in, but not reduced, seasoned or thickened. Final sauce or coulis must be prepared on site. Samples for tasting.
 - Dried fruit powder permitted
 - Dehydrated fruit or sheets permitted
- Decor elements - 100 % done on site
 - No titanium dioxide – no metallic powder no artificial food colours are permitted
 - Do not use gold or silver leaf
- Eggs - can be separated and pasteurized, but not processed in any other way
- Dry ingredients - can be Pre weighed and measured
- Flavoured oils & butters are allowed

Live Cooking Competition Equipment

Available Equipment - Each Kitchen:

1 x 1.8m bench	2 x white chopping boards
1 x 4 burner gas stove with Oven	1 x whisk
2 x shelves in upright fridge	1 x male spoon
1 x 10amp power point	1 x female spoon
2 x 2l Pots	1 x wooden spoon
2 x 24 CM Deep Fry Pan Solid Teknics	1 x ladle
2 x baking sheet aluminium 34 x 25.5	2 x tongs
1 x S/S Mixing Bowls Set of 3	1 x spatula
2 x plastic Trays	2 x white main course plates
1 x cooling Racks	1 x roll paper towel
1 x 25 Cm pizza Trays	

To share if required

Henkelman Jumbo 35 chamber vacuum machine with assorted sized vacuum bags
Blast Chiller
Robot Coupe Mixers
Robot Coupe food processors
Robot Coupe stick blenders
Under bench Dishwasher

All Other Equipment is to be brought in by Competitor.

Competitors must supply all food, utensils and equipment for their entry not included above including crockery required for the presentation. Live challenge entrants to consist of one (1) competitor only per category. Live cooking categories are to prepare one (1) x two (2) (covers)-one (1) for photography and one (1) for judging. All competitors must wear a chef's uniform consisting of:
Chef's jacket, Chefs check or black pants, White Apron, Chef's hat, or skull cap – no baseball caps, & appropriate safety footwear.

Live Cooking Competition Judging

Each competitor starts with 100 points and points are deducted in accordance with the following measurable elements:

Mis En Place	5 points
Clean Arrangement of materials	1
Personal Presentation	1
Set up workstation – proper working technique	1
Correct Mise en place level	2
Hygiene & Food Waste	10 points
Clean hygienic work techniques	2
Workflow been adhered to & followed	1
Clear Benches not cluttered	1
Correct Storage of Food items	2
Temperature Control on Food items – hot & cold	2
Control on excess & food waste	1
Limitation on plastic waste	1
Professional Preparation	15 Points
Correct basic methods of food preparation	3
Preparation should be by practical, that exclude unnecessary ingredients.	3
Appropriate cooking techniques must be applied for all ingredients	3
Proper working technique and attention paid to hygiene	2
Review of all food waste including excess items.	2
Review of teamwork or the time to make items or serve them.	2
Innovation	5 points
The introduction of a new technique or significantly improving and existing dish	3
New style of dishing presentation that enhances to customer/judge's expectation.	2
Service	5 Points
Correct number of plates must be presented.	
The meals, should be practical, transportable	
Timeline adhered to, penalised one point for each minute delayed	
Presentation	10 Points
Suitable temperature	1
Appropriate to class/true to menu description	2
Clean arrangement & dish	2
Originality/flair	2
Portion size	1
Nutritional balance	2
Taste	50 Points
Does the major component taste good	8
Does the sauce/garnish taste good	6
Do the complements add to the taste of the major ingredient	6
Is there harmony of flavour combinations in menu	6
Balance of textures	6
Balance of flavours	6
Seasoning	6
Taste of food preserved	6

Culinary Art Open Classes

E1. Sugar Paste Cake

A decorated wedding cake of one or more tiers suitable for a modern wedding coated with sugar paste. No restrictions on decorative mediums and may include royal icing, sugar paste, pastillage, flower paste, handmade flowers and foliage, wired or unwired (wire must not pierce cake covering). The bottom layer of the cake must be edible, and the other layers can be of Styrofoam base. (dummies permitted). Cake stands and pillars are allowed. No feathers or cake jewelry is allowed. No toxic sprays are permitted, no titanium dioxide, luster powder, glitter powder. Fabric may be used to enhance the display but must remain in the stated display area. The allocated space for the display is 90cm x 75cm & should not exceed a height of 90cm.

E2. Wild and Wacky

A cake or cake assembly with a wild and wacky theme coated and decorated with any edible medium. An entire exhibit must be edible, except for the board, no artificial decoration allowed. No dummies allowed. Food grade internal supports may be used. The allocated space for display is 75cm x 90cm and should not exceed a height of 90cm. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder. A typed description of the theme must be displayed with the exhibit. One (1) slice will be cut for tasting.

S2. Sweet Buffet Centerpiece

A showpiece made from chocolate, marzipan, pastillage, sugar, Isomalt, cocoa painting. Suitable for a sweet buffet table. Supports may be used but must not be visible; no toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder. The allocated space for display is 75cm x 90cm, Centerpiece minimum height of 50cm, with a maximum height of 60cm & a maximum width of 50cm. Base maximum 50cm x 50cm x 12cm (height),

S3. Petit Fours/pralines five x six (5 x 6)

Five (5) varieties of six (6) portions with an appropriate sweet Centerpiece. Plus, one (1) extra of each variety prepared for tasting. Size guidelines 6g-14g. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

S4. Torte or Gateaux for eight (8)

Present torte/gateaux of your choice with maximum size 22cm x eight (8) portions. All components of the decoration and cake must be edible. One (1) slice must be taken from the gateaux to display the fillings of the gateaux & for tasting. Suitable for service in a modern establishment. Size guidelines 1.2 – 1.4kg. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

S5. Four (4) Different Desserts.

Prepare & display four (4) different individual desserts suitable for restaurant service. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

Culinary Art Classes Apprentice / Trainee

E1A. Sugar paste Cake

A decorated wedding cake of one or more tiers suitable for a modern wedding coated with sugar paste. Anything Goes, no restrictions on decorative mediums and may include royal icing, sugar paste, pastillage, flower paste, handmade flowers and foliage, wired or unwired (wire must not pierce cake covering). The bottom layer of the cake must be edible, and the other layers can be of Styrofoam base. (dummies permitted). Cake stands and pillars are allowed. No feathers or cake jewelry is allowed. Fabric may be used to enhance the display but must remain in the stated display area. The allocated space for display is 90cm x 76cm and should not exceed a height of 90cm. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

E2A. Wild and Wacky

A cake or cake assembly with a wild and wacky theme coated and decorated with any edible medium. The entire exhibit must be edible, except for the board, no artificial decoration allowed. No dummies allowed. Food grade internal supports may be used. The allocated space for display is 75cm x 90cm and should not exceed a height of 90cm. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder. A typed description of the theme must be displayed with the exhibit. One (1) slice will be cut for tasting.

S2A. Sweet Buffet Centerpiece

A showpiece made from chocolate, marzipan, pastillage, sugar, Isomalt, cocoa painting. Suitable for a sweet buffet table. Supports may be used but must not be visible; no toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder. The allocated space for display is 75cm x 90cm, Centerpiece minimum height of 50cm, with a maximum height of 60cm & a maximum width of 50cm. Base maximum 50cm x 50cm x 12cm (height),

S3A. Petit Fours/pralines five x six (5 x 6)

Five (5) varieties of six (6) portions with an appropriate sweet Centerpiece. Plus, one (1) extra of each variety prepared for tasting. Size guidelines 6g-14g. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

S4A. Torte or Gateaux for eight (8)

Present torte/gateaux of your choice with maximum size 22cm x eight (8) portions. All components of the decoration and cake must be edible. One (1) slice must be taken from the gateaux to display the fillings of the gateaux & for tasting Suitable for service in a modern establishment. Size guidelines 1.2 – 1.4kg. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

S5A. Four (4) Different Desserts.

Prepare hot or cold (displayed cold) four (4) different individual desserts suitable for restaurant service. One (1) dessert is to be prepared twice for tasting purposes. No toxic sprays are permitted - no titanium dioxide, luster powder or glitter powder.

Culinary Art Competition Criteria & Schedule

Monday 31st August

S2 / S2A Sweet Buffet Centerpiece

S3 / S3A Petit Fours/pralines five x six (5 x 6)

- Competitors will be allowed to use one (1) x 1.8m bench to prepare their static display.
- Competitors will be required to bring in all their own equipment to prepare their display.
- Competitors will be penalised if they do not clean their preparation benches satisfactorily.

All artistic entries (Centerpiece's and decorated cakes) are required to be removed TBC. Any entry not removed by clearing time will be removed by Scrutineer and cleared. (All care but no responsibility will be taken).

Entries received at 9.00am or after will not be judged.

9.00am Judging commences.

Tuesday 1st September

E1 / E1A Sugar Paste Cakes

E2 / E2A Wacky Cakes

- Competitors will be allowed to use one (1) x 1.8m bench to prepare their static display.
- Competitors will be required to bring in all their own equipment to prepare their display.
- Competitors will be penalised if they do not clean their preparation benches satisfactorily.

All artistic entries (Centerpiece's and decorated cakes) are required to be removed TBC. Any entry not removed by clearing time will be removed by Scrutineer and cleared. (All care but no responsibility will be taken).

Entries received at 9.00am or after will not be judged.

9.00am Judging commences.

Wednesday 2nd September

S4 / S4A Torte or Gateaux for eight (8)

S5 / S5A Four (4) Different Desserts.

- Competitors will be allowed to use one (1) x 1.8m bench to prepare their static display.
- Competitors will be required to bring in all their own equipment to prepare their display.
- Competitors will be penalised if they do not clean their preparation benches satisfactorily.

All entries are to be required to be removed by 10.45am on the day. Any entry not removed by clearing time will be removed by Scrutineer and cleared. (All care but no responsibility will be taken).

Entries received at 9.00am or after will not be judged.

9.00am Judging commences.

Thursday 5th September – NO Static Competition

Competitors must ensure that no name or company logo is visible to the judges during judging. The Australian Culinary Federation organising body and major sponsors reserve all rights as to the entries in "Culinary Challenge" for public relations and promotional activities, at the discretion of the Australian Culinary Federation.

Display Area

All Static Displays Space 75cm x 90cm & no higher than 90cm the display will be situated in the live challenge kitchens.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented at 11am on the day of your entry.

Culinary Art Competition Judging

Judging criteria for all Decorated Cakes E1/E1A/E2/E2A

Visual Appeal - Eye appeal, Impact Total	10
Presentation - Baseboard, size, shape, covering etc.	10
Cover - Clean, flawless & correct shape	15
Colour Harmony - Use of Colour	10
Execution - Evaluation of techniques used	50
Bonus - May include points for degree of difficulty and creativity	5
Grand Total	100 Points

Judging Criteria for S2 Sweet Buffet Centerpieces

Pastry Artistry

This category includes any form of decorative and artistic display made from food materials. The use of moulds, toxic paints, sprays, artificial materials and decorations are not allowed with the exception of those items designed to lend support to the sculpture.

The most commonly used materials in this category may include the following: Vegetables, fruit, butter, shortening, margarine, tallow, sugar, (blown, pulled, casted), pastillage, marzipan, chocolate, nougat, ice, salt, cocoa, spices, etc.

Judging Points

Design & composition, attention to details, finished appearance, proportion & symmetry.

Technical skills & degree of difficulty, structure techniques, utilization

Creativity & originality, first impression, artistic impression.

Program Requirements

Height minimum 50cm and a maximum 60cm including the base. Base maximum 50cm x 50cm x 12cm (height), display may extend beyond width and length of the base but cannot exceed 50cm allocated display space 75x90cm.

Dimensions for individual participants

All entries must not exceed a maximum height of 100cm and a maximum width of 50cm.

Design and composition

30 points

Piece must be presented on time

Piece must be between 60cm and 150cm tall

Piece must be three dimensional and appealing from all angles.

Dimensions and theme (when required) must be respected

Theme must be cleverly interpreted, professionally researched and clearly understood.

Theme must be inoffensive and non-violent

Display should be light, proportionate, and well balanced. Display should be elegantly coloured.

More than three techniques must be used on each Centerpiece. There must be a clear focal point.

Design must be elegant, sophisticated, sober, peaceful and joyful.

Use of moulds is limited.

Centerpiece should be fragile and well balanced.

Technical Skill & Degree of difficulty

50 points

Anatomically correct (when applicable)

If a Centerpiece is designed to be a realistic representation of an object, animal or person, etc. or a combination of such items, these features should be proportional to one another and anatomically correct.

Culinary Art Competition Judging

Symmetrical pieces should be precisely reversed, identical.

Centerpiece's should be properly assembled: pieces fit perfectly, no visible seams, no finger marks.

Nougatine and/or caramel must be perfectly cooked (not burnt)

All colouring elements must be food safe. (Note – no titanium or glitter powders are allowed.)

Colour should be true to nature, refined and blended. Air brushing should be delicate and sophisticated.

Painting and/or silk screen must be clean and free of smudges. Brush strokes must be precise and smooth.

Expert assembling may not require any binder (i.e., Chocolate, sugar, fondant, royal icing).

Creativity & Originality

20 points

Piece should be original and creative, innovative technique should be used. New or innovative tools should be used.

Degree of difficulty should be high.

Centerpiece should take many hours to plan and create.

Total

100 points

Judging criteria for S3/S3A Petits Fours and Pralines

Presentation

Are the items presented tastefully & attractively 4

Are the items of correct size 4

Are the items presented with clean and clear concepts 4

Has the correct amount been displayed 4

Are the combination of colours sensible & pleasing 4

Total 20 Points

Composition

Has each variety a different filling & flavour 8

Are flavours and colours harmonising 6

Is there a balance between sponge & filling 6

Total 20 Points

Correct Professional Preparation

Is the quality of the work consistent throughout 4

Are the items of uniform size 4

Is the correct preparation evident 4

Does the preparation involve a variety of skills 8

Total 20 Points

Arrangement and Serving

Is the arrangement clean 6

Is the plating exemplary 6

Is practical serving possible 8

Total 20 Points

Taste

Is the composition of flavours textures and taste exemplary 20

Total 20 Points

Grand Total

100 Points

Culinary Art Competition Judging

S4/S4A Torte or Gateaux & S5/S5A Four Plated Desserts

Presentation

Does the dessert look appetising	7
Is it presented tastefully, attractively & elegantly	7
Does it have a clean and clear concept	7
Are the colours sensible	4

Total **25 Points**

Composition

Does it appear light & easily digestible	6
Is it appropriate for modern tastes & trends	5
Do flavours and colours harmonise	5
Is there a balance in textures apparent	5
Are sauce & accompaniments suitable	4

Total **25 Points**

Correct Professional Preparation

Is the correct preparation evident	7
Does the preparation involve a variety of skills	5
Does it show any degree of difficulty	5
Is the quality of the work consistent	5
Does the description correspond with the dish	3

Total **25 Points**

Arrangement/Serving

Is the arrangement clear & exact	7
Are the portions of appropriate size	7
Is practical serving possible	5
Are sauces of correct quantity	3
Is there a new concept	3

Total **25 Points**

Grand Total **100 Points**

FEEDBACK

The Individual competitor will be given feedback on their competition day.

Judging Definitions

Hygiene

Personal presentation, uniform, hair, shoes etc.

Cleanliness of work area and finished cleaning down of work area. Correct food handling.

Mise en place

Timely & orderly preparation. Clean working areas. Punctual completion of work.

Originality

Innovative and first time presented for judging at a salon.

Practicality

Current preparation techniques. Simply or easily produced. Cost has been considered.

Presentation

Elegant, neat and pleasing to the eye. Balanced, uniform & graceful. Appropriately sized plate.

Serving Technique

Clean, careful and exact. No fuss, simple & practical. No overelaborate garnishes.

Work Involved

The method & skill employed to produce the result. Consideration for safety

Improving your chances for an award in Static

The research, preparation, time & effort placed into the display.

Avoid talking to the judges unless you wish to make a key point.

Be precise with carving or cutting of vegetable.

Be original and present new ideas. Ensure practical portion sizes.

Display delicate colours, contrasting textures and acceptable flavour combinations.

Excite the judges with the appearance of the display.

Harmonise the meat with the garnish. Keep items simple.

Keep competition areas clean & tidy, making sure to meticulously clean when finished.

Present on time as scheduled. Spell menu items correctly.

Present a natural & appetising look. Roast meat properly (not too rare).

Slice meat in the correct manner (cut across grain & arrange in order & size).

Use tan aspic with meat & clear aspic with seafood.

Avoid the following

Bird feathers, dripping or cloudy aspic.

Decorating with parsley, watercress, or fresh herbs. Entering a previously judged piece.

Entering displays not prepared by you. Excessive use of food colourings.

Identifying your display prior to judging. Overcrowding the platter/plate.

Placing food on tallow. Presenting hot food on mirror.

Repetition in methods or preparation. Superstructure for sculpture that can be seen.

Use of unsuitable serving dishes/mediums. Use of tarnished silver. Use of plastic ornaments, flowers etc.

Use of paper sleeves or doilies unless for crumbed or fried food.

Use of any inedible materials for garnishing or enhancement of the food.

(Note – no titanium or glitter powders are allowed.)

Hygiene & Food Safety Guidelines

NOTES: Tasting judges do not share plates, 1 x plate will be as a sample, and the other meals will be portioned by a Rookie Jury member or a dedicated waitperson

The Five Keys to World Chefs Food Safety in Competitions

The core messages of the Five Keys to Safer Food are: (1) keep clean; (2) separate raw and cooked.

(3) cook correctly; (4) keep food at safe temperatures, and (5) selection of safe raw materials to produce the items.

1. Keep Clean:

It takes over 2.5 billion bacteria to make 250 ml of water look cloudy, but in some cases, it takes only 15-20 pathogenic bacteria to make one sick.

- a. Wash and sanitise all surfaces and cooking equipment in the preparation area of the kitchen.
- b. Fruits and vegetables need to be washed and packed in appropriate containers.
- c. The kitchen area needs to be spotless as it is a showcase of our profession.
- d. All the equipment, tools, utensils, or service wear including knives and knife containers (wraps, etc....) you may be using, must be clean.
- e. Floor, walls, cabinets and refrigeration in the competition arena, and the cart or transport equipment must be kept clean.

2. Separate Raw and Cooked:

Keeping raw and prepared food separate prevents the transfer of microorganisms. Cross-contamination is a term used to describe the transfer of microorganisms from raw to cooked food, and to the equipment used in the vicinity of the food items.

- a. All food ingredients should be packed separately and labelled clearly by; name and date of packing, and if required, "use by" date.
 - b. Raw poultry, fish, seafood, and meat proteins are to be housed in their own closed containers. These items must be transported and stored at <5°C (41°F).
- Various packed and labelled dry items can be stored on the same tray.
- d. cooked food items must be stored above raw items to avoid drips and cross contamination. There should be no contact between the two items.

3. Cook Correctly:

Correct cooking or care of food can kill almost all dangerous microorganisms, which ensure the jury, and guests in attendance, that the food is safe for consumption)

- a. A standard HACCP sheet should be used in the preparation and cooking of the proteins. Ideally this sheet should contain the following:
 - i. Name of item being cooked.
 - ii. Temperature of item prior to cooking
 - iii. Length of time during which the items were subjected to heat.
 - iv. The actual temperature upon cooking
 - v. Time at which the cooking process was completed.
- b. Blanched Items should be shocked immediately in clean iced water to stop the cooking process, then drained and stored in a clearly labelled and covered container.
- c. If your National Cuisine needs a partially cooked item to be blanched /dried, then cooked again, please clearly highlight this to the jury members – for example Peking Duck. These items are to be held in a clean area to avoid bacteria.

4. Keep Food at a Safe Temperature:

Microorganisms multiply quickly if food is not stored correctly. Holding food at a temperature below 5°C (40°F) or above 60°C (140°F), slows down or stops the growth of microorganisms but some dangerous microorganisms can still grow below 5°C (40°F).

5. As mentioned under Cooking Correctly, the HACCP sheet should be used in all food preparations:

- a. b. Raw proteins can only be left on the worktable if it is stored on ice, or ice pad, and covered with more ice pads or other cold systems. The temperature of this protein must be kept below 10°C (50°F).
- b. Cooked food needs to be held above 60°C (140°F) to avoid microbial growth, and ensure the food is served hot to members of the jury and to the guests.
- c. Cooked food can be served à la minute to avoid this.
- d. A HACCP sheet should be posted on each refrigerator and, or freezer door. Temperatures must be recorded every hour, and corrective actions must be taken if doors are left open too long.
- e. Hot food must be cooled to <5°C (4°F) before it can be refrigerated.
- f. All food items to be refrigerated or kept in the freezer must be covered and labelled.

6. Selection of Safe Raw materials:

Raw materials including ice may be contaminated with dangerous microorganisms and chemicals. Toxic chemicals can form in moldy foods like fruit and vegetables.

- a. Temperatures of your produces should be recorded at the market, when you arrive in your preparation facility, and in your cooking competition kitchen – HACCP.
- b. Fruits and vegetables should be checked for worms, grubs and mold.
- c. Fish, seafood and meat proteins need to be <5°C and not bruised or damaged.
- d. Check that fish exhibit all signs of freshness and verify that they do not have worms or parasites. Verify for signs of freshness.
- e. All dry ingredients, and all fresh, frozen, cured, or smoked food should have the use by or expiring dates checked.

7. Dress Standards:

Ideally, all members of a team should be dressed identically.

- a. Chef's jacket – The chefs or team of chefs should enter the competition arena wearing a clean white, pressed chef's jacket.
- b. Chef's hat – Standard chef hats, or competition sponsored hats must be worn. Individual event skull caps may be worn.
- c. White aprons are the standard aprons for competitions. Pale coloured ones, and butcher striped aprons are accepted.
- d. Safety style, non-slip, must be worn. Sport shoes are not allowed in the kitchen.
- e. Neckties – are optional.
- f. No visible jewelry is to be worn except for a wedding band, ear stud (no more than 7 mm diameter) or sleeper (small rings).
- g. No watches to be worn in the competition kitchen.

8. Personal Hygiene:

- a. Male chefs should be clean shaven.
- b. Chefs with beards must wear a beard net.
- c. Chefs should be clean and showered and demonstrate good personal hygiene.
- d. Hair which touches the collar, or falls below the collar, must be restrained and covered with a hair net.
- e. After shave and perfumes must not be overpowering
- f. Sleeves of chef's jackets must be a minimum of elbow length.

9. Correct Footwear Must Be Clean.

10. Food & Drink During Competition:

- 1. All food & drink must be consumed outside the kitchen including water bottles

11. General Rules:

- a. Tasting of food must be conducted with disposable single use utensils, or utensils that are washed after each tasting.
- b. Remove a sample of a product from the container with one spoon.
- c. Transfer the product sample onto a second spoon, away from the original food container or preparation area.
- d. Sample the product by tasting.
- e. Never re-use used spoons. Use clean and sanitary spoons for each tasting. Always use two spoons to ensure sanitary practices are being followed and the product is not contaminated.
- f. Double dipping into sauces or food items with the same spoon is prohibited.
- g. Food items in transport, and stored, must be covered with clear plastic or a lid.
- h. Ready To Eat food (RTE) should not be handled with bare hands.
- i. Equipment acceptable for the handling of cooked food is tongs, chopsticks, or tweezers.
- j. Work areas should always be cleared of unnecessary items.
- k. Basic spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- l. Knives must always be kept clean.
- m. Food trimmings should be identified and labelled.
- n. Food trimmings from your mise en place, which may be used later, should be kept separately, not mixed, labelled, and stored at <5°C (41°F).
- o. Hand paper towels to be used for work surface bench and hands wiping.
- p. Cloth towels should only be used to manage hot items.
- q. Cutting boards in PEHD (polyethylene high-density) material are preferred and should be color coded: green for vegetables, red for fish, brown for cooked meats, and violet for vegan.
- r. White is acceptable as a neutral color for all tasks. Cutting boards should always be clean.
- s. Use of wooden cutting boards is not authorized.
- t. Cardboard or any porous containers and boxes are not allowed to enter the kitchen.
- u. Nothing is allowed to be stored on the floor.

12. Face Mask/Face Shield:

When requested by the local health authorities or the organisers

- a. These forms of PPE must be worn during the entire competition while in the competition arena.
- b. They must be changed:
 - i. In preparation for service
 - ii. If they are spoiled in any way
 - iii. Upon returning to the kitchen after any break

13. Hand Washing:

It is a 30 second process which must take place.

- a. Upon arrival at the kitchen
- b. At the start of the actual competition
- c. When hands become soiled.
- d. On the hour
- e. After handling raw proteins.
- f. When each task is finished.
- g. After mise en place has been set.
- h. Before service.
- i. After visiting the washroom.
- j. After handling rubbish.
- k. always upon returning to the kitchen.

14. Sanitising:

Recommended chemical sanitizer must be applied for a minimum of 10 seconds before it can be wiped off with a paper towel or scraper.

- a. All work surface must be sanitised upon arrival into the kitchen.
- b. All benches must be sanitised at the start of the competition.
- c. All benches need to be sanitised as they become soiled.
- d. All benches must be sanitised at the completion of each task.
- e. All benches must be sanitised prior to starting service.
- f. All benches must be sanitised at the end of the competition.

15. Aprons:

- a. To enhance and promote our profession, and to avoid cross contamination, chefs should not be working with soiled aprons.
- b. Bib aprons can be used when cleaning proteins.
- c. Aprons should be changed:
 - i. At the start of the competition
 - ii. After working on proteins
 - iii. If they become heavily soiled at any stage
 - iv. Prior to service

16. Gloves:

- a. Gloves do not give an automatic exemption to proper food handling techniques.
- b. Must be worn when handling hot or cold "Ready to Eat" food (RTE), which will be consumed by the jury/public.
- c. Gloves can be worn if working with dirty items, or items that stain, i.e.: beetroot.
- d. Hand injuries should be protected with a band aid/plaster and covered with a glove.
- e. Changing gloves is paramount to avoid cross contamination. It is not necessary to wear gloves during the mise en place or food items unless the food items will not receive any heat treatment.
- f. Gloves need to be changed.
 - i. If you start to use other equipment after touching proteins
 - ii. Before starting service
 - iii. Regularly during service
 - iv. Before and after cleaning dirty, or staining vegetables or marinades.

Rubbish

- a. Small bins are permitted on the work bench.
- b. Neither the small table bins nor the main kitchen bin may overflow.
- c. Rubbish needs to be bagged, and removed each hour of the competition, upon closing of the bags.
- d. Bins should be empty at the start of service.
- e. Cleaned and washed at the end of service.
- f. Sinks must be used for washing and not to hold dirty pots and rubbish.
- g. Rubbish must be separated – i.e.: paper, plastic, organic, not reusable plastic boxes and containers, organic, and disposed of in designated containers.

Team Spacing:

Ideally the team should utilise all work areas of the kitchen to avoid close contact, which at times may be unavoidable.

Glass Policy:

- a. Control - No glass items are permitted in any format into the competition kitchen. This may pertain to wine, vinegar, soy sauce, tomato paste, oils, drinking vessels, and any other products.
- b. Items must be decentered into appropriate non-breakable packaging prior to stepping into the competition kitchen.
- c. If sponsored items are in glass, these will remain on the central ingredient table(s), away from the competition kitchen. Competitors will retrieve products from this area in non-breakable containers.

Food Efficiency (Waste):

- a. In some circumstances, some excess food is unavoidable, but this must be controlled. It is how you manage it that will be noted.
- b. If all your portions are not sold – there must be accountability, tickets Vs Sales Vs food remaining.
- c. 5% excess is acceptable due to several kitchen factors, spillage, replacement, wrong table.
- d. Be mindful when planning menus to avoid waste factor, i.e.: “Pommes Parisiennes” or smaller.
scooped vegetables or fruits.
- e. Useable trimmings / excess of preparations must be properly packaged and labelled with date and name of product as a minimum.
- f. Such leftover food will be reviewed by the kitchen jury before it is taken away.
- g. Deduction for items thrown in the rubbish or tried to wash down a sink.

Competitors Best Practices

We are often asked what is 'Best Practices' these are the rules that help us govern our competitions and what members of the jury will be looking for as we move forward, these read in conjunction with the competition rules and regulations, will ensure you are on the right track.

The whole idea behind this document is to ensure all teams and competitors are on a level playing field and as to what the jury may be looking into during the competition.

Naturally, this document does not cover all aspects of the jury and marking scheme but investigates the 'Best Practices for competitors, which need to be read with the Worldchefs Health and Food Safety Regulations.

1. **Plastic** is something that the world and gastronomy is eliminating.
 - a) Plastic Bags – avoid all unless necessary and required to pack your food items into OR is there an alternative solution.
 - b) Vacuum Bags – are for sous vide or for storage to enhance the shelf life, they are not for transporting items to a competition, to hold liquid etc., and should be avoided as much as possible, think of the waste and the cost.
 - c) Plastic Containers – are permitted to transport and store items in and must be reusable and are not to be thrown away after one use, they need to be cleaned and packed away.
2. **HACCP sheets** are required in most parts of the world in a commercial or professional kitchen. This is Best Practice for the recording of the temperature controls in place for raw, semi-raw, ready cooked and food storage.
 - a) Standard HACCP sheets are available on the WORLDCHEFS web page which are acceptable in any competition.
 - b) Temperature/storage sheets should show the temperature flow chart of food items from Fridge/freezer checklist, should be done at a minimum of every hour of the competition, with corrective action when the temperatures are too high.
 - c) Storage of warm food must be made to ensure all international and local regulations are met to avoid any public concerns about food safety.
 - d) Sous Vide records are imperative due to the nature and at time low cooking temperature, the temperatures and times need to be recorded.
 - e) Jury members are at liberty of checking and investigating these documents under any circumstance.
 - f) Jury members are at liberty of checking and investigating these documents under any circumstance.
3. **Competition Timing/ on Time** – is an important part of our profession whether in a restaurant or competition, food served at the correct temperature and on time allows a pleasant eating experience for the guests.
 - a) In all competitions there are Service Points awarded on timing, however, if you far exceed this bracket, points will be deducted from competent preparation.
 - b) If your food items have too many hand movements and or components, it will affect the temperature of the food for service, which will lead to points deduction.
 - c) At the IKA & World Cup, your timing commences once the ticket is handed in at the pass, until that course leaves the pass.

4. Food Weight and Nutrition

- a) There are expected weights to be observed in the hot kitchen and on the chef's table, in a practical world, we should adhere to these weights, 20-30g either side is acceptable.
- b) It is a cooking competition; therefore, skills are paramount, cooking skills, flavour profiles allowing the food to speak for itself and hand skills are necessary, repetition with moulds will be penalized under professional preparation.
- c) All food needs to be nutritionally balanced along with the presentation on how it fits into the menu.

5. Plate Temperature – Good Practices is to have cold food and desserts served on room temperature plate to avoid condensation; warm food should be served on warm plates.

- a) If you serve a salad with a warm appetizer, think about how to support/protect the salad from wilting it on a warm plate.
- b) All salads or herbal salad garnishes need some type of dressing or seasoning.

Terms & Conditions for Live Cooking & Culinary Art

Entry Fee

One (1) fee per competitor- Paid on Application, No Exceptions, Non-Refundable.

ACF Members	\$1+10% GST
Non-Members (Qualified Chefs)	\$30.00+10% GST
Apprentice or Trainee Non-Member	\$1+10% GST
Yum Cha Challenge	\$50+10% GST
Team Challenge	\$50+10% GST
Street Food Challenge	\$50+10% GST

Competitors will be informed via email to confirm their application has been received. The competition day/date times will be published no later than Monday 17th August & all competitors will be notified by email. If you have not been contacted by this time, please email competition@austculinary.com.au

All competitors are advised to read these conditions of entry very carefully as these will be strictly enforced.

Every exhibit must be a bona fide work of the entrant and not a prejudged piece. Judges may request clarification or information with respect to the work after judging.

The Australian Culinary Federation reserves the right to rescind, modify or add to any of the rules and regulations and its interpretation of these will be final. Further, the ACF reserves the right to limit the number of entries per class or to cancel any class should there be a need to do so. In such circumstances, all entry fees would be fully refunded.

Chair of Judges

Competitors seeking clarification on any part of the rules of this competition are advised to contact by email at competition@austculinary.com.au we will respond by email with any rule clarification. No verbal contact will be considered. Please keep a copy of all email correspondence.

Making your entry

All entries to be completed online at www.austculinary.com.au/competitions. The entry forms must be fully completed.

The completed individual entry forms & Team Challenges must be submitted with full registration costs (please do not send cash). The completed form with registration fees must reach the ACF on or before COB Friday 7th August 2026

Acceptance of entries will be on a “first come first served” basis for all live events, this is due to kitchen availability & the scheduling thereof.

The competitor agrees to participate in a photo, radio recording, video and/or film session, or to provide voice/written testimonials. The above hereby acknowledge that Australian Culinary Federation agrees has the right to use such photos, radio recordings, videos, films or voice/written testimonials in any medium and in any reasonable manner for any purpose as they may deem fit. The competitor also consents to the right of Australian Culinary Federation to use their names, voices or pictures, menu's & recipes

The Competitor agrees to allow the ACF to provide their name & email to participating sponsors upon request of such sponsor

Submission of a completed entry form with fees included constitutes acceptance of the conditions and terms of “2026 Culinary Challenge” Bought to you by The Australian Culinary Federation

Risk: All risks and liabilities will be removed from the management committee jointly or individually and the committee will not take responsibility for loss or damage of any nature associated with the 2026 Culinary Challenge

The Australian Culinary Federation National Office 0439 408 106

Medals will be awarded in the Static & Live competition daily in the ACF Chef Lounge with overall winners presented on the awards night, venue and time TBA.

All competitors are to attend the awards evening in full uniform to receive any major awards

Code of Conduct

The 2026 Culinary Challenge expects all competitors to follow the Australian Culinary Federation Code of Conduct. Details of the codes can be found at www.austculinary.com.au

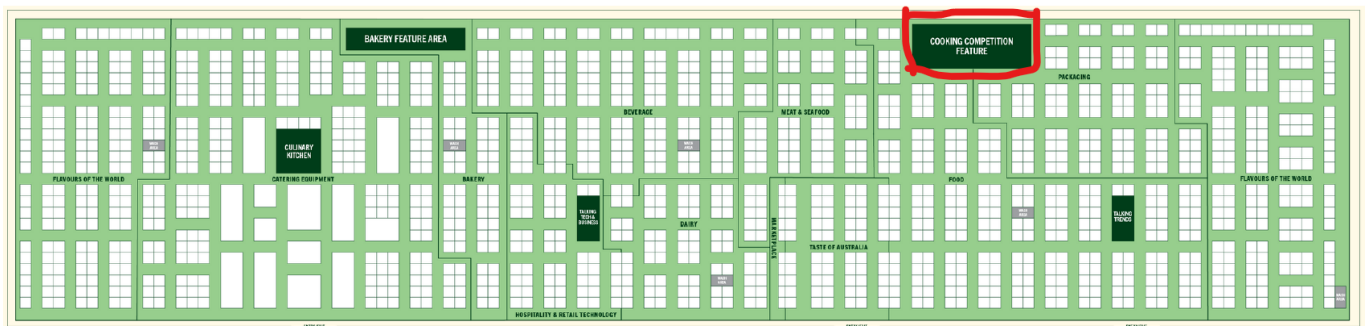
1. Follow all legal and occupational regulations in my professional role and responsibilities.
2. Refrain from corrupt practices that will bring disgrace to, or damage the integrity of professional cookery.
3. Respect this culinary code of practice and encourage cooks/chefs to join one or more of the reputable commercial cook/chef organisations.
4. Be courteous to, considerate of, cooperate with colleagues and demonstrate integrity, honour and passion while accepting and celebrating my colleagues and my own achievements with dignity.
5. Seek out and mentor young persons to encourage and support them to be passionate about their vocation.
6. Share my professional knowledge and creative skills with other colleagues to advance the culinary arts.
7. Acknowledge the original source of any relevant culinary articles, food service styles, creators of fashions or unique preparations and protect the original intention of classical culinary terminology.
8. Uphold the symbol of a cook/chef uniform, particularly when I portray the image of a professional cook/chef in any public arena.
9. Endeavour to constantly improve my own knowledge and skills to professionally advance myself
10. Strive to balance my responsibilities in work, recreation and family in harmony with each other

Sponsors and Supporters

The Australian Culinary Federation would like to thank the sponsors who support of this event.

Venue Floor Plan & Access

ACF Culinary Arena



Loading Dock



Accessed from Normanby Road and located at the rear of the Exhibition Centre, this loading dock runs the full length of the building. Traffic on the dock flows in one direction. A 30-minute parking limit applies for drop-off/pick-up of goods during the move-in/move-out process. Vehicles are not permitted to park on either loading dock at any time.

Parking

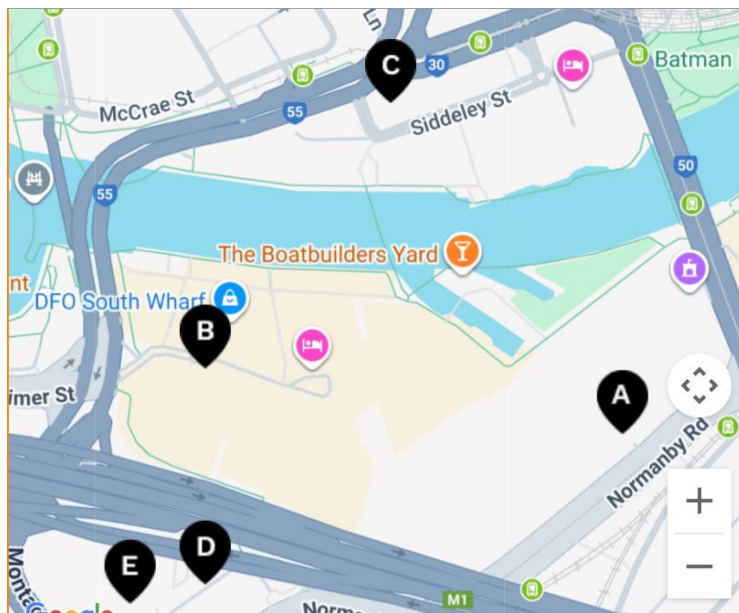
Wilson Parking offers flexible rates and secure underground parking at the Exhibition Centre. It also has accessible parking with lift access up to Door 1, 6 and 10 in the Exhibition Centre.

[Book online to secure your spot at Wilson Parking.](#)

Additional parking is available at [South Wharf Retail car park](#), [Siddeley St car park](#), [Freeway car park](#) or [Montague Street car park](#).

See the car park locations below:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| A | Exhibition Centre | D | Freeway |
| B | South Wharf Retail | E | Montague Street |
| C | Siddeley Street | | |



Evacuation Plan

