



ONTARIO'S FINEST **BUTCHER**

COMPETITION

2025 OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

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2025 OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

ELIGIBILITY:

Maximum two (2) competitors per company.

Entrants must be available for the elimination round on September 8, 2025, at Handtmann Canada, Waterloo ON and the finals on October 25, 2025 at Meating Place at Blue Mountain Convention Centre in Blue Mountain, Collingwood.

REGISTRATION:

A **non-refundable** entry fee of \$175 +HST per entry for member company or \$350+HST per entry for non-member company or individual must be submitted with the completed registration form **by 4:30pm (EST) August 15, 2025**. Entries will be registered on date payment received. If for any reason the competition is cancelled the entry fee will be returned.

Substitutions will be accepted (for the elimination round only).

A confirmation will be sent upon the closing of registration and participants will be provided with more detailed information on the competition.

ONTARIO'S FINEST BUTCHER TITLE:

An individual can enter the competition as often as they would like however, can only win the title of Ontario's Finest Butcher a maximum three (3) times. The winning butcher may be asked to participate as a judge in future competitions assuming no conflict of interest.

WINNER RECOGNITION:

- a) Ontario's Finest Butcher will be presented with a personalized award at the awards banquet on October 25 at the Awards Gala in Blue Mountain, ON.
- b) Both the individual and the member company may use Ontario's Finest Butcher title and logo.
- c) MPO will promote the winner via:
 - A press release distributed province-wide to food, lifestyle, business, trade and agricultural media
 - A local release targeted directly to media in their region
 - Recognition on meatpoultryon.ca, BLOCKtalk and Word on the BLOCK
 - Social media announcements on Facebook and Twitter
- d) YouTube videos from the past year's competitions may be found at www.youtube.com/user/OntMeatPoultry.



ELIMINATION ROUND:

The first stage of the competition will take place on **Monday, September 8, 2025** at **Handtmann Canada, located at 654 Colby Dr, Waterloo, ON N2V 1A2.**

The judging criteria for the elimination round is as follows. Please read carefully.

Competitors will now be judged on specific core competencies in addition to professionalism and workmanship. The Identified Competencies are as follows:

- 1) Seaming
- 2) Frenching
- 3) Tying
- 4) Slicing
- 5) Saw Skills
- 6) Boning/Trimming

Each competitor will be given 30 minutes to break down a pork bone-in leg (rind on), bone-in shoulder butt, and bone-in loin. If for religious or cultural reasons pork is not an option, competitors will be given the option to use veal. Please notify us when registering.

Competitors are required to produce the following:

Loin

- 4 Frenched Chops - external fat trimmed to an acceptable depth
- 6 Loin Centre Cut Chop, Fast Fry

Leg

- 1 boneless, tied roast from the outside round, includes eye of the round
- Scallopine from inside round – Slice the whole muscle, each piece no more than 1/8" thick

Butt

- Capicola Roast

The degree of boning and the choice of retail cuts from the remaining materials will be the competitor's choice.

Judging in the elimination round is based on the **competitor's individual skills** and not against others.

All waste is to be kept including chine bone so that judges can evaluate boning, trimming and saw work.

- ***Yields and margins will no longer be calculated in the final scoring***

Competitors must bring their own knives, tools and personal protective equipment. A saw will be available for use but shared with other competitors. **The use of a mesh glove is mandatory (except on the saw).**

The three competitors moving on to the finals will be announced the following day.

FINAL ROUND:

The top three butchers with the highest score from the elimination round will proceed to the finals. The finals will take place on October 25, 2025 at Meating Place at Blue Mountain Convention Centre in Blue Mountain, Collingwood.

The three finalists will have **45 minutes** to transform their mystery protein(s) into appealing, creative, and properly merchandised consumer-ready products. Competitors will be required to create this display using the meat supplied, and merchandising aids, ingredients, and seasonings provided.

LIABILITY:

While MPO will be undertaking measures to ensure the safety of all competitors, MPO does not assume any responsibility for the protection and safeguarding of any persons for health or any other reasons. Competitors will be required to sign a waiver.

PUBLICITY RELEASE:

By entering the Competition, and in consideration of being allowed to participate and possibly win, the entrant:

- a) agrees to the Competition rules,
- b) agrees to the use, without compensation, of images of themselves (including any and all photographic images or recordings taken of them), name and city of business operation in all publicity campaigns, whether or not related to the Competition, including in all advertising, media material and on the MPO websites, and
- c) gives and grants to MPO and MPO's respective licensees, agents, successors and assigns in perpetuity the right to reproduce, use, publish, broadcast, exhibit, distribute, transmit and/or otherwise exploit, as applicable, in all forms of advertising and promotion of MPO's goods, services and/or business including in any and all media now or hereafter known including without limitation by means of newspaper advertising, magazine advertising, television advertising, direct mail advertising, video, electronic mediums including electronic networks such as the "Internet", merchandise, the following (the following being collectively referred to as the "Subject Matter"); photographs submitted or taken as part of the Competition, a description, biography and photo of the entrant and the company with which he/she is affiliated with and any photographs taken at any stage of the Competition and after the Competition (the copyright in all such photographs shall be and remain exclusively that of MPO, and if any copyright is deemed to be assigned to MPO pursuant to the paragraph then all moral rights relating to such works will be deemed to have been waived by the assignor).

MPO PRIVACY POLICY:

Personal information about entrants collected in connection with this Competition is collected solely for the purpose of administering this Competition. No further information or marketing communications not related to this Competition will be sent to the entrant unless the entrant has in some manner provided consent, as the case may be, with expressed permission to do so.

COMPETITION RULE CHANGES:

At the sole discretion of MPO, and without any prior notice, these rules may be modified if, in the sole opinion of MPO, it is necessary or desirable to ensure that the Competition is conducted fairly.



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