



KCBS Letter of Apology to the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic

Brian and Ellen Jarvis, the competitors and supporters of the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic, and KCBS members:

I extend my sincerest apologies for the postponement of awards at the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic this past weekend. Everyone who organized, supported, and attended this contest deserved a timely awards ceremony with accurate results. The postponement of results did not reflect the expectations of the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic and the competitors, nor did it reflect the standards that KCBS strives to maintain.

At the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic, a portion of Master Series results appeared in the Backyard contest results. Following an investigation into the cause of the issue, the Board of Directors mandated that, moving forward, each contest will have its own unique ID eliminating the need for post-event data entry merging as well as the possibility of one event's results appearing in another event. This modification is among several preventative steps the Board is taking to mitigate future recurrence. It is important to emphasize that the delay was not technology-related, and KCBS is making the necessary changes to safeguard the integrity of our events, whether such issues stem from an individual, a process, or our system.

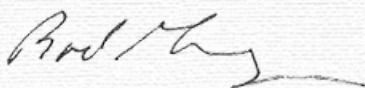
We are grateful to the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic for their patience and commitment to working with KCBS event reps and staff to ensure an accurate resolution to the issue. KCBS is humbled by our extended community of contest representatives for their ongoing dedication to integrity and accuracy.

Additionally, KCBS will offer more resources, additional training, and updated rep protocols to ensure that all Contest Representatives remain current on procedures, rules, and regulations. We assure you that we will continue to improve our processes, develop timely and effective solutions, and monitor the implementation of these improvements.

KCBS sanctions nearly 400 contests annually, and while the issues last weekend were anomalous, we take them seriously. The Rep Committee and the Board of Directors are reviewing the rep-sanctioning guidelines to ensure that they are clear and unequivocal. In addition, we will be reviewing the work of all Contest Reps looking for repeated or egregious individual errors, and appropriate action will be taken.

To the teams, we express our genuine appreciation for your hard work, dedication, and investment in competition barbeque, especially the Atlanta BBQ Store Classic. All of us at KCBS deeply regret that you could not celebrate your achievements together. We appreciate your patience as we worked to ensure accurate event results and resolve the situation. BBQ family and KCBS members, your trust and support have been invaluable as we've maintained, shaped, and forged industry-wide standards for over 37 years.

At KCBS, we are committed to learning from errors to prevent them in the future. We pledge to strengthen and fortify your trust in our organization.



Rod Gray
Kansas City Barbeque Society
Chief Executive Officer