

## Best New York Burger Contest Official Rules – 2026

The **10th Annual Best NY Burger Contest**, hosted by the **New York Beef Council (NYBC)**, celebrates the best **100% beef burgers** served in New York State restaurants. Social media users across the state can nominate and vote for their favorite burgers to help determine this year's winner.



Anyone may nominate a hamburger from a New York restaurant. To be eligible for the contest, the hamburger must meet the following guidelines:

1. To qualify as a hamburger, the burger must be 100% beef, although other ingredients may be added to the patty (such as spices, vegetables, etc.)
2. All burgers must be composed of a formed ground beef patty/patties served on a bun or other bread product (such as biscuits, focaccia, or tortillas). Burgers may include any combination of condiments (such as ketchup, mayonnaise, and mustard), sauces (such as barbeque or hot sauce), cheeses, and toppings (such as bacon, onions, tomatoes, and lettuce). Every burger component must be placed between the bun or bread pieces or served open-faced on a bread product.

### **Official Rules**

1. Nominations will be accepted online until March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
2. The voting will commence on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and continue until April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Voting will end at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
  - a. To enter online: Visit <https://www.nybeef.org/>. Click on “Best NY Burger Contest.” Follow the on-screen directions to submit your nomination at <https://www.nybeef.org/social-outreach/best-new-york-burger-competition>
3. Burgers must be available on the nominated restaurant's regular menu.
4. The restaurant must be open for business by the beginning of the nomination period and open year-round.
5. No prior BNYB final winning burger can be used as a nomination.
6. Each restaurant must receive a minimum of 5 nominations to move onto the voting phase.
7. The Sponsor (NYBC) retains the discretion to make all decisions regarding interpreting these Official Rules. All decisions of the Sponsor are final and discretionary.

To follow the Best NY Burger contest updates, LIKE the New York Beef Council on Facebook or follow us on Instagram. You are encouraged to post a photo of your favorite burger on social media using #BestNYBurger and tag @newyorkbeefcouncil

### **Selection of Finalists**

Ten (10) burgers will be selected as finalists from throughout the state based on the number of nominations each restaurant receives. The Sponsor (NYBC) retains the discretion to make all decisions regarding the selection of these ten finalists. All decisions of the Sponsors are final and discretionary.

- The restaurant will have 24 hours, once notified, to select a burger for the Top Ten finalist.
- Restaurants that receive nominations for multiple locations will be counted per individual location, not as a total.

### **Judging Criteria**

An anonymous judging panel will select the 2026 Best NY Burger. The judges will not announce their presence at your restaurant or request a free meal, and their decision is final.

The following guidelines will be used in judging:

- Taste – 50%
- Appearance and Presentation – 30%
- Eating Experience – 10%
- Overall – 10%