

NATIONAL
HOMEBREW
COMPETITION

2020 COMPETITION ENTRANT HANDBOOK



NATIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION

COMPETITION ENTRANT HANDBOOK

November 13, 2019

Greetings AHA Members!

We are excited to invite you to be part of the largest homebrew competition in the world! The National Homebrew Competition celebrates the spirit of homebrewing and homebrewers. The field is tough, and to move on you must bring your best entries forward.

In this packet, you'll find all the information you need to know about the competition, from how to enter and shipping information to NHC Tables and awards.

In 2019, there were 3,492 entrants from 21 countries with 9,191 entries. We expect there will be as many or more entering the 2020 competition.

We hope you will join them. Online application **opens January 14, 2020 and goes until 3 p.m. MST on January 22, 2020**. Details may be found on HomebrewersAssociation.org/NHC.

Cheers!



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WHAT IS NEW IN 2020

Entry Fee Change

The first round entry fee in 2020 will remain at \$16 per entry. We are introducing a [final round entry fee](#) of \$9 per entry. With the final round entry count doubling in the past 10 years, the expenses for space, meals for hundreds of judges and stewards, cold storage, truck and equipment rental, shipping space, supplies, and printing have also risen. The new entry fee will help offset those expenses and allow for greater flexibility in the future.

Spice & Specialty Mead Table Breakout

The 2020 competition will break out spice mead (BJCP M3) and specialty mead (BJCP M4) entries into their own tables. In previous years spice & specialty meads have been judged in the same table.

Competition Ban on Cannabis-Infused Entries

All and any cannabis-infused, or ingredient derivative of, beers are **strictly prohibited** from the National Homebrew Competition. Any entrant found in violation of this rule will be banned from the competition and subject to additional penalties.

Baltic Porter and Imperial Stout Table

Baltic Porter (BJCP 9C) and Imperial Stout (BJCP 20C) are now in the same NHC table. We made this change because of the similarities in style versus Baltic Porter being in the same category with Strong European Lagers.

First Round Site Changes

Please make sure to look at [all first round site changes](#) as some may be moved based on availability and geography.



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WHO CAN ENTER THE NHC?

Entry Eligibility

All National Homebrew Competition entries must be homebrewed beer, mead, and cider. “Homebrewed” means that entrants cannot use professional equipment or other means provided by professional brewers or breweries.

Homebrewer Eligibility

Homebrewers must meet each of the following conditions as of midnight on January 21, 2020:

1. You must be a current American Homebrewers Association (AHA) member when entering the competition.
2. You must know your member number and email address associated with your membership.
3. You must be subscribed to receive emails from the National Homebrew Competition. If you are unsure, please log in to your account on HomebrewersAssociation.org and update your email preferences.
4. No employee of the Brewers Association may enter.
5. Open enrollment, beer registration, and beer payment is online only.

NOTE: Homebrewers who are not members of the AHA may join the AHA up through January 21 and register for the competition. Based on demand, there is no guarantee all applicants will receive their requested entry amount, first choice judging center, or be accepted to the competition.

Fees

A non-refundable fee of \$16 per entry is due after you receive your Acceptance Email by February 14. **You have 7 days to pay.** This fee will cover each entry in the first round. There is a separate final round entry fee for advancing entries of \$9 per entry. **Deadline is May 31.**

The entry limit will be determined following the open enrollment period. Entry limit is determined by the number of entrants, entries, and demand for specific First Round sites. All competition entrants will be notified of eligibility and how many entries they have entered by February 14.

Refunds will be issued on an extremely limited, case-by-case basis, upon request and pending review by the AHA. No refunds will be given after February 20, 2020.

HOW TO ENTER THE NATIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION

Step 1: Competition Application Open Enrollment: January 14 – 22*

AHA members must apply online to participate at Apply.BrewingCompetition.com starting at 10 a.m. MST on January 14. **This first step is required.**



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ENTRIES: Entrants must indicate how many entries they would like to submit to the competition. The number of entries per entrant will be determined by number of applications and demand of entries. *You will not need specific beer entry details for the application; that's all part of the beer registration process.* **NOTE: Applying does not mean you are in the competition and acceptance into the competition is not contingent on a first-come, first-served basis.**

JUDGING CENTER: Select a [primary judge center](#), then choose **ALL other alternate locations for best chances to get into the competition** (note: selecting all alternate locations will improve the chances for getting entries into the competition). You will receive a confirmation email with your application. This is **not** an Acceptance Email.

The AHA will notify applicants of their entry status once the application period is closed by email **by February 14**. **It is your responsibility to subscribe to our emails before the open enrollment window closes and monitor your email during this time.** Beers will be entered later.

Step 2: Entry Registration & Payment: Notification by February 14

ACCEPTANCE EMAIL: Acceptance Emails are all sent by February 14. A \$16 per entry charge is due by credit card. **You will have seven (7) days to pay for your entries after notification.** Log into [BrewingCompetition.com](#) with the login credentials sent in your [Acceptance Email](#). **If you miss this window, you will lose your spot in the competition. This is where you tell us the entries you want to enter and which categories they'll compete in!**

Once you pay for your entries, you are officially entered in the competition.

Disclaimer: Failure to pay within the deadline window will result in dismissal from the competition and lower priority on acceptance to future competitions. You must pay for all entries.

Step 3: Beer Editing First Round (After payment is complete)

Log into your account at [BrewingCompetition.com](#) and submit the entry information for each of your entries you paid for in the **"My Info and Entries"** tab. Make sure all the information is correct. Provide all full names (first and last) of your team (if applicable).

NHC Tables: Every year, the competition re-organizes the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines in a meaningful and manageable way. Review the tables in this handbook carefully to know which subcategories fall within which NHC Tables. Be sure to include any additional information required for the entry by referencing the subcategory in the [BJCP 2015 Style Guidelines](#).

SUBCATEGORY ENTRY LIMIT: You may only submit one entry per subcategory in beer, mead and cider. For NHC Tables that have no subcategories (e.g. American IPA), you may only submit one entry. An entrant may be a co-brewer for a different entry in a subcategory they have already entered as the main brewer.



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HOMEBREW CLUB: Entrants may only choose **one** homebrew club total for the entirety of the competition. Changing a homebrew club is prohibited after March 11, 2020.

ENTRY LABELS: Available after payment. Entry labels are found in your “Entries Table” in your First Round Brewer Profile for each entry. **Print and attach the labels to each bottle using a rubber band only. Labels must be a minimum of 1.5” wide and 2” tall**

Entries may be edited until March 5, 2020, at 7 p.m. PST (end of shipping window).

Step 4: Shipping Window: February 20 to March 5

All entries must be received during the shipping window, February 20 to March 5, at the designated locations for each Judging Center. This information is shown on your Entry Labels and in your First Round Brewer Profile. If you are unsure, please contact the site organizer for your Judging Center.

Step 5: Scoresheets, Post-Competition Digital Package & Final Round

Scoresheets are sent back via email to entrants. *First Round Post Competition Digital Packages* will be available in First Round Brewer Profiles by April 30. All those advancing to the Final Round judging will receive instructions in their package. **IMPORTANT: All Final Round medal winners are required to provide recipe information.**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

December 31, 2019: Club Registration

Homebrew clubs must be [registered](#) with the AHA.

January 22, 2020: Open Enrollment Application

Entrant Application deadline.

By February 14, 2020: Beer Registration & Payment

Beer registration and payment for eligible entrants. Entrants have 7 days to pay for their entries from the time they receive a confirmation email.

(After Payment) March 5, 2020 (7 p.m. PST): Update/Edit Entries

Entrants may log into the competition website and update/edit their entries.

February 20 – March 5, 2020: First Round Shipping/Drop-off Window

All competition entries must be received at the entrant’s respected shipping or drop off location.

March 13 – April 5, 2020: First Round Judging

First Round judging of the competition takes place.

June 1 – June 11, 2020: Final Round Shipping Window

All competition entries advancing in the Final Round must be received at the shipping or drop-off locations for the Final Round (different than first round locations).



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June 18, 2020: Final Round Judging

Final Round competition judging takes place at Homebrew Con
(*Not open to the public – sign up in Brewer Profile*).

June 20, 2020: Award Ceremony

National Homebrew Competition winners announced at Award Ceremony during Homebrew Con.

BEER BOTTLE QUANTITIES & APPEARANCE

All homebrewers entering the 2020 National Homebrew Competition are required to send the following quantities of beer for each entry.

Bottles not meeting the requirements may be disqualified.

Container Size & Appearance Requirements

- Two (2) 10-14 oz. bottles/cans per entry. Bottles/cans larger than specified measurements are subject to disqualification.
- Bottles/cans must not exceed 9.5" tall and 2.75" diameter regardless of amount of liquid bottle can hold.
- Bottles/cans less than 10 oz. are acceptable.
- Bottles, cans, and caps must be free from all labels, tape or any identifying marks. Bottles with raised lettering are allowed.
- Grolsch/Flip Tops/22 oz. bombers are not acceptable.
- Entry Labels for each entry must be a minimum of 1.5"x2" and rubber banded to each bottle appropriately.

Number of bottles

FIRST ROUND: For each entry, send two (2) bottles for evaluation. (Example: 2 entries would require 4 bottles in total, two bottles for each entry)

FINAL ROUND: Three bottles will be required for each entry. **Further instructions are sent after the First Round.**

Entries not conforming to the prescribed requirements may be disqualified. Disqualified entries may be judged but will not be eligible to advance. All entries received become property of the AHA and any and all bottles are dealt with at the AHA's discretion.

We put these guidelines in place for storage after sorting and anonymity purposes.

Tip: Please check to make sure your bottles fit in a standard case size box before entering. Bottles are not returned to entrants.

DETERMINING THE CORRECT SUBCATEGORY FOR YOUR ENTRY

Important Entry Information

Homebrewers entering in the National Homebrew Competition should carefully review the NHC Tables and subcategory designations before registering an entry. It is imperative that entries be submitted into the proper NHC Table and subcategory since judges evaluate entries based on these descriptions.



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Detailed descriptions of each subcategory are provided by the Beer Judge Certification Program 2015 Style Guidelines and available on PDF through the BJCP website, bjcp.org.

Tip: keep it simple. When entering entries with ingredients such as fruit, vegetables or spices, avoid words like extract, puree, fresh, all natural, or canned – just indicate the ingredient used.

It is the entire responsibility of each entrant to enter their entries in the appropriate BJCP subcategory. The staff and volunteers of the National Homebrew Competition or the Brewers Association cannot aid entrants in this decision.

Judges and organizers will not classify or reclassify your entry. The competition uses the BJCP 2015 Style Guidelines and assigns BJCP subcategories to 35 NHC Tables.

To eliminate the possibility of error, please reference the NHC's Tables list below. Here you will find the 2015 BJCP Subcategories listed below each NHC Table.

Special Ingredients & Entry Instruction Information

For specific information on special ingredients and entry instructions in a subcategory, please reference the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines, find your subcategory, and locate the subheading "Entry Instructions." This section identifies the required information necessary to judge an entry.

Do not use brand names, geographic names, or any other proper names of special ingredients. Adding regional information could compromise the anonymity of your entry and will be reviewed and altered at the competition director's discretion.

Entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.

All MEAD entries must include sweetness, carbonation, and strength information.

All CIDER entries must include sweetness and carbonation information.



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SHIPPING INFORMATION

UNITED STATES

It is the entrant's responsibility to make sure **entries arrive on time and are labeled correctly**. Homebrewers in the United States should package and ship their beer in the following ways:

1. The AHA highly encourages using **Spirited Shipper** for easy-to-use, minimal waste containers. The packaging cuts down on waste materials and delays in unpacking and sorting.
2. Plan on using a national courier: Private couriers work well. Please do not use the United States Postal Service (USPS). Indicate "glassware" or "samples" if asked to provide such information.
3. Beware of scrutiny with ground shipping.
4. Package **MUST** have **Attn: 2020 NHC** listed on package when delivered.
5. Deliver Direct (drop-off): Entrants may deliver their beers directly to their site's designated drop off or shipping location. **Not all shipping locations accept drop offs.**
6. Arrange for a return receipt or tracking number with your shipping company if you wish to confirm delivery of your package. Shipping/drop-off locations cannot confirm delivery of your entries.

INTERNATIONAL

Homebrewers located outside the US may ship their entries:

1. You may ship using a courier and customs clearance company of your choice (such as FedEx, UPS, DHL), but we recommend a national courier of your country.
2. Declare the package as "samples, glassware" with a \$0 or \$1 value as a gift. If you have questions about this, please contact nhc@brewersassociation.org for assistance.

Disclaimer: Some brewers have had trouble having their beers clear US Customs in the past. The American Homebrewers Association is not responsible for any confiscated, lost or damaged entries.



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SHIPPING/DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

Boston: BackBeat Brewing, Attn: NHC 2020, 31A Park Street Beverly MA 01915 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Drop-off ONLY: Craft Beer Cellar (Belmont Only), Attn: 2020 NHC MA, 51 Leonard Street Belmont, MA 02478

Cleveland: Fat Heads Brewery, Attn: 2020 NHC OH, 17450 Engle Lake Dr Middleburg Hts, Ohio 44130 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Denver: Bootstrap Brewing Company, Attn: 2020 NHC Denver, 142 Pratt St., Longmont, CO 80501 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Indianapolis: Great Fermentations Indianapolis, Attn: 2020 NHC IN, 5127 E. 65th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Kansas City: KC Bier Company, Attn: 2020 NHC KC, 310 W. 79th St. Kansas City, MO 64114 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Milwaukee: Northern Brewer, Attn: 2020 NHC Milwaukee, 1306 S 108th St. Milwaukee, WI 53214 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Minneapolis: Northern Brewer Shipping Warehouse, Attn: 2020 NHC MN, 2221 Hwy 36 W, Roseville, MN 55113 (*Shipping ONLY*)

Drop-off ONLY: Northern Brewer, Attn: 2020 NHC MN, 1150 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

New York City: Wild East Brewing Co., Attn: 2020 NHC NY, 623 Sackett St, Brooklyn, NY 11217 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Philadelphia: Keystone Homebrew Supply (Montgomeryville), Attn: 2020 NHC PA, 435 Doylestown Rd Montgomeryville, PA 18936 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Seattle: Bosk Brew Works, Attn: 2020 NHC Seattle, 14350 NE 193rd Pl, Woodinville, WA 98072 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

San Francisco: More Beer! & More Wine!, Attn: 2020 NHC SF, 995 Detroit Ave G, Concord, CA 94518 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

San Diego: Alesmith Brewing Company, Attn: 2020 NHC San Diego, 9990 AleSmith Ct, San Diego, CA 92126 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)

Tampa: 7venth Sun Brewery Seminole Heights, Attn: 2020 NHC FL, 6809 N. Nebraska, Tampa, FL 33604 (*Shipping & Drop-off*)



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GUIDE FOR REGISTERING ONLINE

Use this page to prepare your competition information for [online beer registration](#). Completing this form prior to online beer registration will ease your online registration process. Beer registrations will only be accepted online. Entries entered in the following the [2015 Beer Judge Certification Program \(BJCP\)](#) subcategories will require specialty information and instructions: 7C, 9A, 10C, 21B, 23F, 24C, 25B, 27J, 28A, 28B, 28C, 29A, 29B, 29C, 30A, 30B, 30C, 31A, 31B, 32A, 32B, 33A, 33B, 34A, 34B, 34C, X1, X2, X3, X4, X5 Mead: 35A, 35B, 35C, 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D, 36E, 37A, 37B, 38A, 38B, 38C. Cider: 39A, 39B, 39C, 39D, 39E, 40A, 40B, 40C, 40D, 40E, 40F.

Entry #1 _____ NHC Table/BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____

Entry #2 _____ NHC Table & BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____

Entry #3: _____ NHC Table & BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____

Entry #4: _____ NHC Table & BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____

Entry #5: _____ NHC Table & BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____

Entry #6: _____ NHC Table & BJCP Subcategory: _____

Any Specialty Information Required (90 character limit)?: _____



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JUDGING & AWARDS PHILOSOPHY

The National Homebrew Competition recognizes brewing excellence in 35 NHC Tables of beer, cider, and mead, but does so over the course of two rounds, a First and Final Round of judging. The First Round of judging takes place in March and April, with the top three beers in each NHC Table at each judging center moving on to the Final Round at Homebrew Con.

First Round Judging

The First Round of judging takes place in March/April. The top three entries in each NHC Table move on to the Final Round judged at Homebrew Con. **An entry must receive a score of 30 points or more** to be eligible to place in a NHC Table. The top three entries in each NHC Table are determined by what is called a Mini-Best of Table (Mini- BOT), a technique for reconciling the placement of entries within a multi-flight NHC Table. It is called a mini-BOT because it uses BOT judging (e.g. judges pick winners without rescoring) and is only used for a single judging NHC Table, not the whole competition.

Note: First Round sites may choose to do early judging before the official judging weekend to relieve some of the burden on the judge pool. This is typically done the week leading up to the judging weekend.



Final Round Judging

The Final Round of judging will take place at Homebrew Con. The top three entries in each NHC Table is determined by a Mini-BOT. First, second and third place winners in each of the 34 NHC Tables will receive gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively. First place entries in each NHC Table will move on to the Best-Of-Table round to determine the major award winners for beer, mead and cider.

AWARDS FIRST ROUND

First Round Certificates

A certificate does not signify an entry placed in a NHC Table and advances to the Final Round. It is a recognition of an entry's *quality*. Only entries awarded ribbons of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a NHC Table will advance to the Final Round.

Gold Certificate – Earned by entries scoring 38-50 points in the First Round.

Silver Certificate – Earned by entries scoring 30-37 points in the First Round.



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Bronze Certificate – Earned by entries scoring 25-29 points in the First Round.

First Round Ribbons

Ribbons – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the First Round with a score of 30 points or greater are awarded ribbons for their achievement, and advance to the Final Round of the National Homebrew Competition.

Final Round Medals

Gold Medal – a world-class beer that accurately exemplifies the specified style, displaying the proper balance of taste, aroma, and appearance.

Silver medal – an excellent beer that may vary slightly from style parameters while maintaining close adherence to the style and displaying excellent taste, aroma, and appearance.

Bronze medal – a fine example of the style that may vary slightly from style parameters while still displaying quality taste, aroma, and appearance.

*Each entry that wins a medal or ribbon will receive one medal or ribbon. Additional medals may be acquired by the entrants. Email nhc@brewersassociation.org for more information.

NATIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION MAJOR AWARDS

For more information on how awards are calculated and tiebreakers, please reference the competition's FAQ page.

Homebrewer of the Year Award

First place winning entries in all of the beer NHC Tables will compete in a best-of-table (BOT) judging. The Best of Table beer determines this award

Meadmaker of the Year Award

First placing winning entries in all the mead NHC Tables will compete in a best-of-table (BOT) judging. The Best of Table mead determines this award.

Cidermaker of the Year Award

First place winning entries in all the cider NHC Tables will compete in a best-of-table (BOT) judging. The Best of Table cider determines this award.

Ninkasi Award

Homebrewers are awarded points based on the number of gold (6 points), silver (4 points), and bronze (2 points) medals won in the Final Round of the competition. To be eligible for the award, entrants must have at least one entry place in the beer NHC Tables.



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NHC Homebrew Club Award

Clubs are awarded points based on the number of gold (6 points), silver (4 points), and bronze (2 points) medals won in the Final Round. In the event of a tie, tiebreaker criteria will determine a winner. Entrants must maintain the same club in the first round and final round.

Gambrinus Club Award

Clubs are awarded points based on the number of gold (6 points), silver (4 points), and bronze (2 points) medals won in the Final Round per total entries in the Final Round. To be eligible, clubs must have at least 5 club members entering the First Round, and at least 2 club members advancing to and one placing in the Final Round. In the event of a tie, tiebreaker criteria will determine a winner.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For any award or other honor, including the major awards, the homebrewer(s) identified on the registration application determines which person and which homebrew club is awarded points. Individual members of a group of brewers earn points as a group and do not earn points on individual basis. Points and awards are not transferable.

Entrants may choose only one homebrew club to affiliate themselves with. All points earned by the individual will go to the affiliated club for the major club awards. The affiliated club is finalized on March 12. Any change afterwards will not be honored.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The National Homebrew Competition Award Ceremony announces the award-winning entries at an awards ceremony during Homebrew Con. A list of winners will be available on HomebrewersAssociation.org.



2020 NATIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION TABLES LIST

The NHC tables are determined by the AHA Competition Subcommittee using the [Beer Judge Certification Program's 2015 Style Guidelines](#) and previous years' data. The following is a list of NHC Tables and the BJCP subcategories. ***Special Ingredients Required**

Pale American Beer

- 1A. American Light Lager
- 1B. American Lager
- 1C. Cream Ale
- 1D. American Wheat Beer
- 18A. Blonde Ale
- X1: Dorada Pampeana

Pale European Beer

- 2A. International Pale Lager
- 4A. Munich Helles
- 4B. Festbier
- 5A. German Leichtbier
- 5B. Kölsch
- 5C. German Helles Exportbier

Pilsner

- 3A. Czech Pale Lager
- 3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
- 5D. German Pils
- 27F. Pre-Prohibition Lager
- X5: New Zealand Pilsner

Amber European Beer

- 2B. International Amber Lager

- 7A. Vienna Lager
- 3C. Czech Amber Lager
- 6A. Märzen
- 7B. Altbier
- 7C. Kellerbier*

Dark European Lager

- 2C. International Dark Lager
- 3D. Czech Dark Lager
- 8A. Munich Dunkel
- 8B. Schwarzbier

Strong European Lager

- 4C. Helles Bock
- 6C. Dunkels Bock
- 9A. Doppelbock*
- 9B. Eisbock

German Wheat Beer

- 10A. Weissbier
- 10B. Dunkels Weissbier
- 10C. Weizenbock*
- 27H. Roggenbier
- 27I. Sahti

Pale British Ale

- 11A. Ordinary Bitter



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11B. Best Bitter

11C. Strong Bitter

12A. British Golden Ale

12B. Australian Sparkling Ale

12C. English IPA

Scottish & Irish Ale

14A. Scottish Light

14B. Scottish Heavy

14C. Scottish Export

15A. Irish Red Ale

American Pale Ale (18B)

Amber & Brown American Ale

19A. American Amber Ale

19B. California Common

19C. American Brown Ale

27B. Kentucky Common

Brown British Beer

13A. Dark Mild

13B. British Brown Ale

13C. English Porter

27D. London Brown Ale

British & Irish Stout

15B. Irish Stout

15C. Irish Extra Stout

16A. Sweet Stout

16B. Oatmeal Stout

16C. Tropical Stout

16D. Foreign Extra Stout

American Porter & Stout

20A. American Porter

20B. American Stout

27G. Pre-Prohibition Porter

Imperial Porter & Stout

9C. Baltic Porter

20C. Imperial Stout

American IPA (21A)

Specialty IPA (all)* (21B/X2)

Strong American Ale

22A. Double IPA

22B. American Strong Ale

22C. American Barleywine

22D. Wheatwine

Strong UK Ale

17A. English Strong Ale*

17B. Old Ale

17C. Wee Heavy

17D. English Barleywine

17E. British Strong Ale: Burton Ale

Saison (25B)*

Belgian Ale

24A. Witbier

24B. Belgian Pale Ale

24C. Biere de Garde*



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- 25A. Belgian Blond Ale
- 26A. Trappist Single
- 34A. Clone Beer (Belgian Styles)

Strong Belgian Ale

- 25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale
- 26B. Belgian Dubbel
- 26C. Belgian Tripel
- 26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

European Sour Ale

- 23A. Berliner Weisse
- 23B. Flanders Red Ale
- 23C. Oud Bruin
- 23D. Lambic
- 23E. Gueuze
- 23F. Fruit Lambic*
- 27A. Historical: Gose

Fruit Beer

- 29A. Fruit Beer*
- 29B. Fruit and Spice Beer*
- 29C. Specialty Fruit Beer*
- X3. Italian Grape Ale*
- X4. Catharina Sour*

Spiced Beer

- 30A. Spice, Herb,
Vegetable Beer*

- 30B. Autumn Seasonal Beer*
- 30C. Winter Seasonal Beer*

Smoke-Flavored Beer

- 6B. Rauchbier
- 27C. Lichtenhainer
- 27E. Piwo Grodziskie
- 32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer*
- 32B. Specialty Smoked Beer*

Wood-Aged Beer

- 33A. Wood-Aged Beer*
- 33B. Specialty Wood-Aged*

American Wild Ale

- 28A. Brett Beer*
- 28B. Mixed Ferm. Sour Beer*
- 28C. Wild Specialty Beer*

Specialty Beer

- 31A. Alternative Grain Beer*
- 31B. Alternative Sugar Beer*
- 34D. Clone Beer (non-Belgian)*
- 34B. Mixed-Style Beer*
- 34C. Experimental Beer*
- 27J. Other Historical Beer*



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Traditional Mead

- 35A. Dry Mead*
- 35B. Semi-Sweet Mead*
- 35C. Sweet Mead*

Fruit Mead

- 36A. Cyser*
- 36B. Pyment*
- 36C. Berry Mead*
- 36D. Stone Fruit Mead*
- 36E. Melomel*

Spice Mead

- 37A. Fruit & Spice Mead*
- 37B. Spice, Herb, Vegetable Mead*

Specialty Mead

- 38A. Braggot*
- 38B. Historical Mead*
- 38C. Experimental Mead*

Standard Cider & Perry

- 39A. New World Cider*
- 39B. English Cider*
- 39C. French Cider*
- 39D. New World Perry*
- 39E. Traditional Perry*

Specialty Cider & Perry

- 40A. New England Cider*
- 40B. Cider with Other Fruit*
- 40C. Applewine*
- 40D. Ice Cider*
- 40E. Cider with Herbs/Spices*
- 40F. Specialty Cider/Perry*



COMMON ISSUES & WHO TO CONTACT

Shipping Related Issues & Questions

Shipping information is found in your [First Round Brewer Profile](#) with the shipping location and address. The judging center you are placed in has specific shipping and drop-off locations (if applicable) for entries. Contact your Site Organizer. Contact information is found in your [First Round Brewer Profile](#) under the “Contact” tab.

Missing Entry in Profile

If you paid for your entries and an entry is missing from your “Entry Table,” contact nhc@brewersassociation.org to resolve the issue.

Specialty Information for Entries

If an entry requires specialty information, you are required to provide that information when registering your entries in your [First Round Brewer Profile](#). There is a 90-character limit. If you have questions about what information to include, please reference the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines. Competition staff may not and will not assist entrants on determining specialty information.

Entry Payments

Entrants have seven (7) days from the time of notification to pay for their entries. This notification is delivered by February 14. For example, if you are notified of acceptance to the competition on February 5, you have until the end of day on February 12 to pay for your entries.

Judging Location

Entrants can sign up to judge/steward through their [First Round Brewer Profile](#). Non-entrants may sign up to judge/steward through the volunteer link on the competition software’s main page in the blue box. Questions about judging should be directed to the Judge Coordinator for the judging location found under the “Contact” tab.

Password Recover

If you have forgotten your password or need to reset it, please follow the RESET PASSWORD link on the competition software’s main page towards the bottom below the login boxes. If that option does not work, please contact nhc@brewersassociation.org.

Entry Check-in

Do not contact the shipping location or anyone on staff about your entries. You will be notified if an entry did not arrive or was damaged and needs to be replaced once Entry Check-in is completed. Please be patient.

Entry Showing as Unpaid

If you paid for your entry or entries and have a receipt, but the entries in your [First Round Brewer Profile](#) are showing as unpaid, please allow up to 48 hours to reflect payment. If they are still marked as unpaid after 48 hours, please contact nhc@brewersassociation.org.

Club Listing in Drop-Down

If your club is not listed in the drop-down under “Club Affiliation” then your club did not register before the deadline of December 31, 2019 to be eligible for the competition club awards. We do not provide a write in for club affiliation.

Confirmation Email vs. Acceptance Email

After applying to the competition, applicants receive a confirmation email with their open enrollment application information. This is not an acceptance email. The Acceptance Email is received by February 14 after the open enrollment period has closed.

Shipping & Dropping Off Entries

Entrants either ship or drop-off entries designated for their judging center. Some locations are Shipping and Drop-off locations, while some are specific to shipping or dropping off. Please make sure you check before packaging. If you have questions, please contact your judging center’s site organizer found under the “Contact” tab in your [First Round Brewer Profile](#).

Where are my scoresheets?

Scoresheets are emailed to entrants, not delivered to your Brewer Profile. Make sure to check your junk and spam mailboxes. The scoresheets go out to the email address we have on file in your Brewer Profile. Make sure it is up to date!

How did my entry rank in category?

Rankings in categories are only for first, second and third place. If your entry has made it to the mini-Best-of-Show round, your entry had a chance to place in the category.

NATIONAL
HOMEBREW
COMPETITION

COMPETITION ENTRANT HANDBOOK

Notes:

