



2026 Competition Style Guidelines

BEER CATEGORIES

DIVISION 1: AMERICAN WHEAT ALE

A. Light American Wheat Ale With Yeast

This beer can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It can be brewed with 30 to 75 percent wheat malt, and hop rates may be low to medium. Hop characters may be light to moderate in bitterness, flavor, and aroma. Fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical, but at low levels, however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Color is usually straw to light amber, and the body should be light to medium in character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Because this style is served with yeast, the character should portray a full yeasty mouthfeel and appear hazy to very cloudy. Chill haze is also acceptable. Yeast flavor and aroma should be low to medium but not overpowering the balance and character of malt and hops. These beers are typically served with yeast in the bottle and are cloudy when served. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.056 (9-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.018 (1.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.8-4.4% (3.5-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-10 (8-20 EBC)

B. Light American Wheat Ale Without Yeast

This beer can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It can be brewed with 30 to 75 percent wheat malt, and hop rates may be low to medium. Hop characters may be light to moderate in bitterness, flavor, and aroma. A fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical, but at low levels, however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Appearance can be clear or with chill haze, golden to light amber, and the body should be light to medium in character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Because this style is packaged and served without yeast, no yeast characters should be evident in mouthfeel, flavor, or aroma. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.050 (9-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.016 (1-4.0 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-4% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-10 (4-20 EBC)

C. Dark American Wheat Ale With Yeast

This beer can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It can be brewed with 30 to 75 percent malt wheat, and hop rates may be low to medium. Fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical but at low levels; however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Color is dark amber to dark brown, and the body should be light to medium in character. Roasted malts are optionally evident in aroma and flavor, with a low level of roast malt astringency acceptable when appropriately balanced with malt sweetness. Roast malts may be evident as a cocoa/chocolate or caramel character. Aromatic toffee-like, caramel, or biscuit-like characters may be part of the overall flavor/aroma profile. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Because this style is intended to be served with yeast, the character should portray a full yeasty mouthfeel and appear hazy to very cloudy. Chill haze is acceptable. Yeast flavor and aroma should be low to medium but not overpowering the balance and character of malt and hops. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.050 (9-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.016 (1-4.0 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-4% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 9-22 (18-44 EBC)

D. Dark American Wheat Ale Without Yeast

This beer can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It can be brewed with 30 to 75 percent malted wheat, and hop rates may be low to medium. A fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical but at low levels; however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Color is dark amber to dark brown, and the body should be light to medium in character. Roasted malts are optionally evident in aroma and flavor, with a low level of roast malt astringency acceptable when appropriately balanced with malt sweetness. Roast malts may be evident as a cocoa/chocolate or caramel character. Aromatic toffee-like, caramel, or biscuit-like characters may be part of the overall flavor/aroma profile. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Because this style is packaged and served without yeast, no yeast characters should be evident in mouthfeel, flavor, or aroma. Chill haze is also acceptable. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.050 (9-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.016 (1-4.0 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-4% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 9-22 (18-44 EBC)

DIVISION 2: FRUIT BEER

A. Any Fruit Beer

Fruit beers are any beers using fruit or fruit extracts as an adjunct in either the mash, kettle, primary, or secondary fermentation, providing obvious (ranging from subtle to intense), yet harmonious, fruit qualities. Fruit qualities should not be overpowered by hop character. If a fruit (such as juniper berry) has an herbal or spice quality, it is more appropriate to consider it in the herb and spice beers category. Acidic bacterial (not wild yeast) fermentation characters may be evident (but not necessary), they would contribute to acidity and enhance fruity balance. Clear or hazy beer is acceptable in appearance. *A statement by the brewer explaining what fruits are used is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions. If this beer is a classic style with fruit, the brewer should also specify the classic style.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-9.5% (2.5-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50 (10-100 EBC)

DIVISION 3: FRUIT, WHEAT, OR VEGETABLE BEER

A. Fruit Wheat Ale With or Without Yeast

This beer can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It can be brewed with 30 to 75 percent malted wheat. Fruit or fruit extracts contribute flavor and/or aroma. Perceived fruit qualities should be authentic and replicate true fruit complexity as much as possible. Color should reflect the degree of the fruit's color. Hop rates may be low to medium. Hop characters may be light to moderate in bitterness, flavor, and aroma. Fruity-estery aroma and flavor from yeast can be typical but at low levels; however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Body should be light to medium in character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. When this style is served with yeast, the character should portray a full yeasty mouthfeel and appear hazy to very cloudy. Chill haze is also acceptable. Yeast flavor and aroma should be low to medium but not overpowering the balance and character of malt and hops. Brewer may indicate on the bottle whether the yeast should be intentionally roused or if they prefer that the entry be poured as quietly as possible. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.050 (9-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.016 (1-4.0 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-4% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-10 (4-20 EBC) or color of fruit.

B. Field Beer

Field beers are any beers using vegetables as an adjunct in either the mash, kettle, primary, or secondary fermentation, providing obvious (from subtle to intense), yet harmonious, qualities. Vegetable qualities should not be overpowered by hop character. If a vegetable (such as chili pepper) has an herbal or spice quality, it should be classified as an herb/spice beer category. *A statement by the brewer explaining what vegetables are used is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions. If this beer is a classic style with vegetables, the brewer should also specify the classic style.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-10.5% (2.5-13.1%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50 (10-100 EBC)

C. Pumpkin Beer

Pumpkin beers are any beers using pumpkins (Cucurbita pepo) as an adjunct in either mash, kettle, primary, or secondary fermentation, providing obvious (ranging from subtle to intense), yet harmonious, qualities. Pumpkin qualities should not be overpowered by hop character. These may or may not be spiced or flavored with other things. *A statement by the brewer explaining the nature of the beer is essential for fair assessment in competitions. If this beer is a classic style with pumpkin, the brewer should also specify the classic style.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-9.5% (2.5-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50 (10-100 EBC)

DIVISION 4: HERB OR SPICE BEER

A. Any Herb or Spice Beer

Herb beers use herbs or spices (derived from roots, seeds, fruits, vegetables, flowers, etc.) other than or in addition to hops to create a distinct (ranging from subtle to intense) character, though individual characters of herbs and/or spices used may not always be identifiable. Under hopping often, but not always, allows the spice or herb to contribute to the flavor profile. Positive evaluations are significantly based on the perceived balance of flavors. *A statement by the brewer explaining what herbs or spices are used is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions. Specifying a style upon which the beer is based may help with evaluation. If this beer is a classic style with an herb or spice, the brewer*

should specify the classic style. If no Chocolate or Coffee category exists in a competition, then chocolate and coffee beers should be entered in this category. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-9.5% (2.5-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50 (10-100 EBC)

DIVISION 5: CHOCOLATE BEER

A. Any Chocolate/Cocoa Flavor

Chocolate beers use dark chocolate or cocoa in any of its forms, other than or in addition to hops, to create a distinct (ranging from subtle to intense) character. Under hopping allows chocolate to contribute to the flavor profile while not becoming excessively bitter. White Chocolate should not be entered into this category. *If this beer is a classic style with chocolate or cocoa, the brewer should specify the classic style.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-9.5% (2.5-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-50 (30-100 EBC)

DIVISION 6: CHILI BEER

A. Any Chili Flavor

Chili Beers are a range of colors from pale to very dark, depending on the underlying style. Clear or hazy beer is acceptable in appearance. Chili Beers are any beers using chili peppers as a flavor, aroma, or "heat" inducing adjunct to create a distinct and balanced (ranging from subtle to intense) character. Chili pepper aromas, ranging from subtle to intense, may or may not be evident and should not be overpowered by hop aromas. Malt sweetness can vary from very low to medium-high levels, depending on the underlying beer style. Hop bitterness is very low to medium-high. Chili pepper aroma and flavor qualities should not be overpowered by hop aroma and flavor, and should be present in harmony with characteristics typical of the underlying beer style. Chili pepper qualities may vary widely as vegetal, spicy, or "heat" inducing flavors and/or aromas. For purposes of competition, all beers containing chili peppers should be entered as Chili Beer. Beers that represent more than one style (for example, chili beers with chocolate) would be appropriately entered as Chili Beer. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must list the chili(s) used along with the classic ale, lager, or experimental style of the base beer, and any other ingredients or processes used. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.6-25.9 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.0%-10.5% (2.5%-13.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50 (10-100 EBC)

DIVISION 7: COFFEE BEER

A. Any Coffee Flavor Beer

Coffee Beers are pale to black, depending on the underlying style. Clear or hazy beer is acceptable in appearance. Coffee beers use coffee in any of its forms to create a distinct and balanced (ranging from subtle to intense) character. Hop aroma is low to high, depending on the intent of the underlying style. Medium-low to medium malt sweetness helps accent balanced coffee flavor and aromas. Hop flavor is reflective of aroma and can be low to high depending on the intent of the underlying style. Hop bitterness is variable, depending on the underlying beer style. Other flavors may be infused, but coffee should be an obvious character. The body is reflective of the underlying beer style. Stout and porter entries with coffee flavor would be more appropriately categorized as Coffee Stout or Porter. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must list the classic ale, lager, or experimental style of the base beer, and may also list the type of coffee used, along with other processing information. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-50 (16-100 EBC)

DIVISION 8: COFFEE PORTER OR STOUT

A. Any Coffee Flavor Porter or Stout

Coffee Stouts or Porters are a range of colors from pale brown to black, depending on the underlying porter or stout style being made with coffee. Clear or hazy beer is acceptable in appearance. Coffee stouts and porters use coffee in any of its forms to create a distinct and balanced (ranging from subtle to intense) character in harmony with dark malt aromas present in the underlying beer style. Hop aroma is low to high, depending on the intent of the underlying style. Malt sweetness and flavors appropriate to the stout or porter style are present and balanced with coffee flavors. Hop flavor is reflective of aroma and can be low to high depending on the intent of the underlying style. Hop bitterness is variable, depending on the underlying beer style. Other flavors may be infused, but coffee should be an obvious character. The

body is reflective of the underlying beer style. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must list the underlying stout or porter style being made with coffee, and may also list the type of coffee used, along with other processing information. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

DIVISION 9: SPECIALTY BEER

A. Specialty Beer

These beers are brewed using unusual fermentable sugars, grains, and starches that contribute to alcohol content other than, or in addition to, malted barley. Nuts generally have some degree of fermentables and are therefore appropriately classified in this category. The distinctive characters of these special ingredients should be evident either in the aroma, flavor, or overall balance of the beer, but not necessarily in overpowering quantities. For example, maple syrup or potatoes would be considered unusual. Rice, corn, or wheat are not considered unusual. Special ingredients must be listed when competing. *A statement by the brewer explaining the special nature of the beer, ingredient(s), and achieved character is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions. If this beer is a classic style with some specialty ingredient(s), the brewer should also specify the classic style. Guidelines for competing: Spiced beers using unusual fermentables should be entered in the experimental category. Fruit beers using unusual fermentables should be entered in the fruit beer category.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.140++ (7.5-40++ °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030+ (1.5-7.5+°Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-20% (2.5-25%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 0-100 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 1-100 (2-200 EBC)

B. Specialty Honey Lager or Ale

These beers are brewed using honey in addition to malted barley. Beers may be brewed in a traditional style or may be experimental. The character of honey should be evident in flavor and aroma, and balanced with the other components without overpowering them. *A statement by the brewer explaining the classic or other style of the beer, and the type of honey used, is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.110 (7.5-26 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.030 (1.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2-9.5% (2.5-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 0-100 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 1-100 (2-200 EBC)

C. Gluten Free Beer

A beer (lager, ale, or other) that is made from fermentable sugars, grains, and converted carbohydrates. Ingredients do not contain gluten; in other words, zero gluten (No barley, wheat, spelt, oats, rye, etc.). May or may not contain malted grains that do not contain gluten. Brewers design and identify these beers along with other style guidelines with regard to flavor, aroma, and appearance profile. In competitions, brewers identify ingredients and fermentation type. NOTE: These guidelines do not supersede any government regulations. Wine, mead, flavored malt beverages, or beverages other than beer as defined by the TTB (U.S. Trade and Tax Bureau) are not considered —gluten-free beer! under these guidelines. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

D. Other Strong Ale or Lager

Any style of beer can be made stronger than the classic style guidelines. The goal should be to reach a balance between the style's character and the additional alcohol. Refer to this guide when making styles stronger and appropriately identify the style created (for example: double alt, triple fest, or quadruple Pilsener).

E. Historical Beer

Historical Beers are a range of colors. Malt sweetness will vary dramatically depending on the overall balance desired. Hop bitterness is very low to very high. Above all, beers in this category are reflective of an established historical beer and/or brewing heritage from any period of time or part of the world, that are not already a beer style already established in these guidelines. This beer commemorates combinations of unique brewing ingredients and/or techniques established in past periods. Examples of Historical Beers might include current-day versions of historic styles which are not represented elsewhere in these guidelines, such as Finnish-style Sahti, South American Chicha, Nepalese Chong/Chang, and African sorghum-based beers, and others. In evaluating these beers, judges will weigh several factors such as uniqueness, heritage, regional distinction, technical brewing skills, and balance of character, background story & information, and overall spirit of the intent of this category. "Historical beers" that are not represented elsewhere as a definitive style in these guidelines could possibly be entered in such categories as Experimental, Herb & Spice, Field Beer, etc., but by choice, a brewer may categorize (and enter) their beer as Historical beer. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide additional information about the entry, including primarily the unique ingredients used and/or*

processing, which contribute to the unique qualities of the style, and information describing the beer style being emulated. This information will help provide a basis for comparison between highly diverse entries, and will be reviewed and edited by the competition manager to remove bias. Entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

DIVISION 10: EXPERIMENTAL BEER

A. Experimental Beer

An experimental beer is any beer (lager, ale, or other) that is primarily grain-based and employs unusual techniques and/or ingredients. A minimum of 51% of the fermentable carbohydrates must be derived from malted grains. The overall uniqueness of the process, ingredients used, and creativity should be considered. Beers such as garden (vegetable), fruit, chocolate, coffee, spice, specialty, or other beers that match existing categories should not be entered into this category. Beers not easily matched to existing style categories in a competition would often be entered into this category. Beers that are a combination of other categories (spice, smoke, specialty, porter, etc.) could also be entered into this category. A *statement by the brewer explaining the experimental or other nature of the beer is essential in order for a fair assessment in competitions. Generally, a 25-word statement would suffice in explaining the experimental nature of the beer.*

DIVISION 11: SESSION BEER

A. Session Ale or Lager (Must Specify Style)

Session Beers are the color of the classic beer style, being made to a lower strength. Appearance may vary from brilliant to hazy to cloudy, with the style of beer being made to lower strength. Aroma depends on the style of beer being made on the lower strength. Any style of beer can be made lower in strength than described in the classic style guidelines. The goal should be to reach a balance between the style's character and the lower alcohol content. Drinkability is a characteristic of the overall balance of these beers. Beers in this category must not exceed 4.0% alcohol by weight (5.0% alcohol by volume). Beers above these limits that are entered into this category may be disqualified before judging or after results are announced. The body is variable with style. For purposes of competition, entries containing less than 4.1% ABV (5.1% abv), which could be appropriately entered in any other classic or traditional category, should be entered in that category and not entered as a Session Beer. Session IPAs should be entered in the Session India Pale Ale category. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must absolutely identify the base style by name or category number that is being created, lower in alcohol, and/or appropriately identify the style created (for example: half-alt, singlefest, or baby bock). Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be profoundly disadvantaged during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.034-1.040 (8.5-10.0 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.010 (1.0-2.6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.8%-4.0% (3.5%-5.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2+ (4+ EBC)

B. Belgian-Style Table Beer

Color: Gold to black. Caramel color is sometimes added to adjust the color. **Clarity:** Beer color may be too dark to perceive. When clarity is perceivable, chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Mild malt character may be present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Not present to very low. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low to low. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Diacetyl should not be present. Traditional versions do not use artificial sweeteners nor are they excessively sweet. More modern versions can incorporate sweeteners such as sugar and saccharin added post-fermentation for additional sweetness and to increase smoothness. **Body:** Low **Additional notes:** These beers may contain malted barley, wheat, and rye as well as unmalted wheat, rye, oats, and corn. Though not common, flavorings such as coriander or orange and lemon peel are sometimes added, but are barely perceptible. The mouthfeel is light to moderate, and sometimes boosted with unfermented sugars/malt sugars. Low carbonation and aftertaste are typical. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide additional information about the entry, including a classic Belgian beer style being elaborated upon (if appropriate), any special ingredients or processing used. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging. Belgian-Style Table Beer would not be appropriately characterized as Session Beer.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.023 (2.1-5.8 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.002-1.008 (0.5-2.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 0.40%-1.60% (0.50%-2.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-15 **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-50(10-100 EBC)

C. Belgian-Style Session Ale

Color: May vary widely **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low, exhibiting a wide range of malt-derived attributes **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low, exhibiting a

wide range of hop-derived attributes **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low to low but sufficient to balance other attributes
Fermentation Characteristics: Phenolic spiciness may be absent or may be present at low levels. Fruity-ester complexity may range from low to medium, in harmony with malt and other attributes. Diacetyl should not be present.
Body: Very low to low. **Additional notes:** Beers in this category recognize the uniqueness and traditions of Belgian brewing, but do not hew to any other Belgian-style categories defined in these guidelines. The most notable characteristic that these beers share is a modest alcohol content ranging from 2.1% - 5% ABV. These beers can be lower-gravity formulations of their own or can be produced from second-run wort from the production of higher-gravity beers. Balance is a key component when assessing these beers. Wood-aged or fruited versions will exhibit attributes of wood-aging or fruit(s) in harmony with the overall flavor profile. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide additional information about the entry, including the classic low-gravity Belgian beer style, or the higher gravity Belgian beer style being made to lower alcohol content, along with any special ingredients or processing used. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging. Belgian-Style Session Ale would not be appropriately characterized as Session Beer.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.018-1.04 (4.5-10 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.002-1.01 (0.5-2.6 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 1.70%-4.00% (2.10%-5.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-35 **Color SRM (EBC)** May vary widely

DIVISION 12: SESSION IPA

A. Any Session IPA

Session IPAs are gold to copper. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures, and hop haze is allowable at any temperature. Fruity-ester aroma is light to moderate. Hop aroma is medium to high with qualities from a wide variety of hops from all over the world. Low to medium maltiness is present. Hop flavor is strong, characterized by flavors from a wide variety of hops. Hop bitterness is medium to high. Fruity-ester flavors are low to moderate. Diacetyl is absent or at very low levels. The body is low to medium. Beer entries that exceed 5.0% ABV should be entered in another category. For purposes of competition, entries containing less than 4.1% abv (5.1% abv), which could be appropriately entered in any other classic or traditional category, should be entered in that category and not entered as a Session Beer. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.038-1.052 (9.5-12.9 °Plato) • **Apparent & Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (3.1-4.6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.0%-4.0% (3.7%-5.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 40-55 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-12 (8-24 EBC)

DIVISION 13: RYE BEER

A. Rye Ale or Lager With or Without Yeast

Rye beers can be made using either ale or lager yeast. It should be brewed with at least 20 percent rye malt and a low to medium perception of hop bitterness. Hop aroma and flavor can be low to medium-high. These are often versions of classic styles that contain noticeable rye character in balance with other qualities of the beer. A spicy, fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical but at low levels; however, phenolic, clove-like characteristics should not be perceived. Color is straw to amber, and the body should be light to medium in character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. If this style is packaged and served without yeast, no yeast characters should be evident in mouthfeel, flavor, or aroma. A low level of tannin-derived astringency may be perceived. If this style is served with yeast, the character should portray a full yeasty mouthfeel and appear hazy to very cloudy. Yeast flavor and aroma should be low to medium but not overpowering the balance and character of rye and barley malt and hops. Darker versions of this style will be dark amber to dark brown, and the body should be light to medium in character. Roasted malts are optionally evident in aroma and flavor, with a low level of roast malt astringency acceptable when appropriately balanced with malt sweetness. Roast malts may be evident as a cocoa/chocolate or caramel character. Aromatic toffee-like, caramel, or biscuit-like characters may be part of the overall flavor/aroma profile. As in the lighter colored versions, diacetyl should not be perceived. *Competition directors may create specific styles of rye beer, such as Rye Pale Ale or Rye Brown Ale. A statement by the brewer indicating if the beer is based on a classic style is essential for accurate judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

B. German-Style Rye Ale With or Without yeast

This beer can be made using phenol-producing ale yeast. It should be brewed with at least 30 percent rye malt, and hop rates will be low. A banana-like fruity-estery aroma and flavor are typical, but at low levels; phenolic, clove-like characteristics should also be perceived. Color is straw to dark amber, and the body should be light to medium in character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. If this style is packaged and served without yeast, no yeast characters should be evident in mouthfeel, flavor, or aroma. If the beer is served with yeast, the character should portray a full yeasty

mouthfeel and appear hazy to very cloudy. Yeast flavor and aroma should be low to medium but not overpowering the balance and character of rye and barley malt and hops. Darker versions of this style will be dark amber to dark brown, and the body should be light to medium in character. Roasted malts are optionally evident in aroma and flavor, with a low level of roast malt astringency acceptable when appropriately balanced with malt sweetness. Roast malts may be evident as a cocoa/chocolate or light caramel character. Aromatic toffee-like, caramel, or biscuit-like characters may be part of the overall flavor/aroma profile. As in the lighter colored versions, diacetyl should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.047-1.056 (11.8-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.9-4.4% (4.9-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-25 (8-50 EBC)

DIVISION 14: HYBRID BELGIAN-STYLE ALE

A. Pale American-Belgo-Style Ale

These beers must portray the unique characters imparted by yeasts typically used in fruity and big Belgian-style ales. These beers are not traditional Belgian styles, which are already defined. They are unique beers unto themselves. Notes of banana, berry, apple, sometimes coriander spice-like and/or smoky-phenolic characters should be portrayed with a balance of hops and malt character when fermented with such yeast. Hop aroma, flavor, and bitterness, not usually found in the base style, can be medium to very high and must show the characteristics of American hop varieties. Color falls in the blonde to amber range. Esters should be at medium to high levels. Diacetyl should not be evident. Chill haze may be evident. Sulfur-like yeast character should be absent. Beers should be presented without yeast if bottled fermented. *A statement by the brewer that could include information such as style being elaborated upon, and other information about the entry with regard to flavor, aroma, or appearance, is essential for fair assessment in competitions. Beers with Brettanomyces may be subcategorized under this category.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5- 15 (10-30 EBC)

B. Dark American-Belgo-Style Ale

These beers must portray the unique characters imparted by yeasts typically used in fruity and big Belgian-Style ales. These beers are not traditional Belgian styles, which are already defined. They are unique beers unto themselves. Notes of banana, berry, apple, sometimes coriander spice-like and/or smoky-phenolic characters should be portrayed with a balance of hops and malt character when fermented with such yeast. Hop aroma, flavor, and bitterness, not usually found in the base style, can be medium to very high and must show the characteristics of American hop varieties. Dark color falls in the deep amber/brown to black range. Roasted malts or barley may have a range of character from subtle to robust, and should be reflected in the overall character and balance of the beer. Esters should be at medium to high levels. Diacetyl should not be evident. Chill haze may be evident. Sulfur-like yeast character should be absent. Beers should be presented without yeast if bottled fermented. *A statement by the brewer that could include information such as style being elaborated upon, and other information about the entry with regard to flavor, aroma, or appearance, is essential for fair assessment in competitions. Beers with Brettanomyces may be subcategorized under this category.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** 16+ (32+ EBC)

C. Other Belgian-Style Ale

Recognizing the uniqueness and traditions of several other styles of Belgian Ales, the beers entered in this category will be assessed on the merits that they do not fit existing style guidelines and information that the brewer provides explaining the history and tradition of the style. Balance of character is a key component when assessing these beers. *Barrel or wood-aged entries in competitions may be directed to other categories by the competition director. In competitions, the brewer must provide the historical or regional tradition of the style, or their interpretation of the style, in order to be assessed properly by the judges.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Range provided by brewer **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Range provided by brewer **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Range provided by brewer • **Bitterness (IBU)** Range provided by brewer • **Color SRM (EBC)** Range provided by brewer.

DIVISION 15: BRETT & OTHER SOUR BEER

A. Wood and Barrel Aged Sour

A wood- or barrel-aged sour beer is any lager, ale, or hybrid beer, either a traditional style or a unique experimental beer that has been aged for a period of time in a wooden barrel or in contact with wood and has developed a bacterial-induced natural acidity. This beer is aged in wood with the intention of introducing the microflora present in the wood. Sometimes wood aging is intended to impart the particularly unique character of the wood, but wood-aged is not necessarily synonymous with imparting wood flavors. Wood character can be characterized as a complex blend of vanillin and unique wood character. Wood-derived character can also be characterized by flavors of the product that was in the barrel during

prior use. These wood-derived flavors, if present in this style, can be very low in character and barely perceived or evident or assertive as wood-derived flavors. Any degree of wood-derived flavors should be in balance with other beer characters. Fruit and herb/spiced versions may take on the hue, flavors, and aromas of added ingredients. Usually, bacteria and wild yeasts fermentation contribute complex esters and result in a dry to very dry beer. Ultimately, a balance of flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel is sought with the marriage of acidity, complex esters, and new beer with wood and/or barrel flavors. *Brewers should specify the type of barrel used and any other special treatment or ingredients used. Competition managers may create style subcategories to differentiate between high alcohol and low alcohol beers and very dark and lighter colored beers, as well as for fruit beers and non-fruit beers. Competitions may develop guidelines requesting brewers to specify what kind of wood (new or used oak, other wood varieties). The brewer may be asked to explain the special nature (wood used, base beer style(s), and achieved character) of the beer.*

B. American Sour

American sour ales can be very light to black or take on the color of added fruits or other ingredients. There is no *Brettanomyces* character in this style. Wood- and barrel-aged sour ales are classified elsewhere. If acidity is present, it is usually in the form of lactic, acetic, and other organic acids naturally developed with acidified malt in the mash or in fermentation by the use of various microorganisms, including certain bacteria and yeasts. Acidic character can be a complex balance of several types of acid and characteristics of age. The evolution of natural acidity develops balanced complexity. Residual flavors that come from liquids previously aged in a barrel, such as bourbon or sherry, should not be present. Wood vessels may be used during the fermentation and aging process, but wood-derived flavors such as vanillin must not be present. In darker versions, roasted malt, caramel-like, and chocolate-like characters should be subtle in both flavor and aroma. American sour may have evident full range of hop aroma and hop bitterness with a full range of body. Estery and fruity-ester characters are evident, sometimes moderate and sometimes intense, yet balanced. Diacetyl and sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) should not be perceived. Chill haze, bacteria, and yeast-induced haze are allowable at low to medium levels at any temperature. Fruited American-Style Sour Ales will exhibit fruit flavors in harmonious balance with other characters. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

C. Brett Beer

Brett Beers are a range of colors and may take on the color of added fruits or other ingredients. Chill haze, bacteria, and yeast-induced haze are allowable at low to medium levels at any temperature. Moderate to intense yet balanced fruity-ester aromas are evident. In darker versions, roasted malt, caramel-like, and chocolate-like aromas are subtly present. Diacetyl and DMS aromas should not be perceived. Hop aroma is evident over a full range from low to high. In darker versions, roasted malt, caramel-like, and chocolate-like flavors are subtly present. Fruited versions will exhibit fruit flavors in harmonious balance with other characters. Hop flavor is evident over a full range from low to high. Hop bitterness is evident over a full range from low to high. The evolution of natural acidity develops balanced complexity. Horsey, goaty, leathery, phenolic, and light to moderate and/or fruity acidic character evolved from *Brettanomyces* organisms may be evident, not dominant, and in balance with other character. Cultured yeast strains may be used in the fermentation. Beers in this style should not use bacteria or exhibit bacteria-derived characters. Moderate to intense yet balanced fruity-ester flavors are evident. Diacetyl and DMS flavors should not be perceived. Wood vessels may be used during the fermentation and aging process, but wood-derived flavors such as vanillin must not be present. Residual flavors that come from liquids previously aged in a barrel, such as bourbon or sherry, should not be present. The body is evident over a full range from low to high. For purposes of competition entries exhibiting wood-derived characters or characters of liquids previously aged in wood would more appropriately be entered in other Wood-Aged Beer categories. Wood- and barrel-aged sour ales should not be entered here and are classified elsewhere. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide information listing a classic or other style of base beer being elaborated upon, fruit or other special ingredients if present, and/or special processes used. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

DIVISION 16: WOOD & BARREL-AGED BEER

A. Wood and Barrel-Aged Pale to Amber Beer

Any classic style or unique experimental beer that has been aged for a period of time in a wooden barrel or in contact with wood. This beer is aged with the intention of imparting the particularly unique character of the wood and/or what has previously been in the barrel. New wood character can be characterized as a complex blend of vanillin and/or other unique wood character, but wood aged is not necessarily synonymous with imparting wood-flavors. Used sherry, rum,

bourbon, scotch, port, wine, and other barrels are often used, imparting complexity and uniqueness to beer. Ultimately, a balance of flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel is sought with the marriage of new beer with wood and/or barrel flavors. The primary character of the beer style may or may not be apparent. Sour wood-aged beer of any color is outlined in other categories. Fruited or spiced beer that is wood and barrel-aged would also be appropriately entered in this category. *The brewer should explain the special nature of the beer to allow for accurate judging. Comments could include: type of wood used (new or old, oak or other wood type), type of barrel used (new, port/ whiskey/ wine/ sherry/ other), base beer style, or achieved character. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-5.2% (3.75-6.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-18 (8-36 EBC)

B. Wood and Barrel-Aged Dark Beer

Any classic style or unique experimental style of dark beer can be wood-aged or barrel-aged for a period of time in a wooden barrel or in contact with wood. This beer is aged with the intention of imparting the particularly unique character of the wood and/or what has previously been in the barrel. New wood character can be characterized as a complex blend of vanillin and/or other unique wood character, but wood-aged is not necessarily synonymous with imparting wood flavors. Used sherry, rum, bourbon, scotch, port, wine, and other barrels are often used, imparting complexity and uniqueness to beer. Ultimately, a balance of flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel is sought with the marriage of new beer with wood and/or barrel flavors. The primary character of the beer style may or may not be apparent. Sour wood-aged beer of any color is outlined in other categories. Dark fruited or spiced beer would also be appropriately entered in this category. *The brewer should explain the special nature of the beer to allow for accurate judging. Comments could include: type of wood used (new or old, oak or other wood type), type of barrel used (new, port/ whiskey/ wine/ sherry/ other), base beer style, or achieved character. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-5.2% (3.75-6.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Above 18 (above 36 EBC)

DIVISION 17: WOOD & BARREL-AGED STRONG BEER

A. Any Wood or Barrel-Aged Strong Beer

Any strong classic style or unique, experimental style of beer can be wood-aged or barrel-aged for a period of time in a wooden barrel or in contact with wood. This beer is aged with the intention of imparting the particularly unique character of the wood and/or what has previously been in the barrel. New wood character can be characterized as a complex blend of vanillin and unique wood character, but wood aging is not necessarily synonymous with imparting wood flavors. Used sherry, rum, bourbon, scotch, port, wine, and other barrels are often used, imparting complexity and uniqueness to beer. Ultimately, a balance of flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel is sought with the marriage of new beer with wood and/or barrel flavors. The primary character of the beer style may or may not be apparent. Sour wood-aged beer of any color is outlined in other categories. *The brewer must explain the special nature of the beer to allow for accurate judging. Comments could include: type of wood used (new or old, oak or other wood type), type of barrel used (new, port/ whiskey/ wine/ sherry/ other), base beer style, or achieved character. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style • **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

DIVISION 18: WOOD & BARREL-AGED STRONG STOUT

A. Any Wood or Barrel-Aged Strong Stout

Wood-Aged Strong Stouts are characteristically dark to very dark. Any of the traditional, stronger stout styles or unique experimental stouts can be aged for a period of time in a wooden barrel or in contact with wood. For purposes of competition entries in this category should contain >5.2% abw (>6.5% abv). These beers are aged with the intention of imparting the particularly unique character of the wood and/or what has previously been in the barrel; but, wood-aged is not necessarily synonymous with imparting wood-flavors. New wood character can be characterized as a complex blend of vanillin and/or other unique wood characters. Used sherry, rum, bourbon, scotch, port, wine, and other barrels are often used, imparting complexity and uniqueness to beer. Ultimately, a balance of flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel is sought with the marriage of new beer with wood and/or barrel flavors. Wood-Aged Beers may or may not have *Brettanomyces* character. Examples of wood- and barrel-aged strong stout styles include but are not limited to stronger versions of wood- and barrel- aged foreign stout, British- or American-style Imperial stout, other strong stout styles, or other strong beer styles blended with stout that meet the criteria for alcohol content. The body is variable with style. Sour higher alcohol wood-aged strong stouts (>5.2% abw or >6.5% abv) should be entered in as Wood-Aged Sour beers. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide additional information about entries in this category. Comments could include classic or experimental strong*

stout style and/or other styles blended with stout (if any) being aged in wood, type of wood used (new or old, oak or other wood type), previous liquids in the barrel if any (port/ whiskey/ wine/ sherry/other), or achieved character. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** varies with style • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** varies with style • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** >5.2% (>6.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** varies with style • **Color SRM (EBC)** varies with style

DIVISION 19: SMOKED BEER

A. Bamberg-Style Marzen Rauchbier

Bamberg-style Rauchbier Märzen should have beechwood smoky characters that range from detectable to prevalent in the aroma and flavor. Smoke character is neither harshly phenolic nor acrid, but rather very smooth, almost rendering a perception of mild sweetness to this style of beer. The beer is generally toasted malty sweet and full-bodied with low to medium-low hop bitterness. Noble-type hop flavor is low but may be perceptible. The aroma should strike a balance between malt, hop, and smoke. Fruity esters, diacetyl, and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.050-1.060 (12.5-14.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.020 (3-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4-4.7% (5.3-5.9%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-15 (8-30 EBC)

B. Bamberg-Style Helles Rauchbier

Helles Rauchbier should have beechwood smoky characters that range from detectable to prevalent in the aroma and flavor. Smoke character is not harshly phenolic, but rather very smooth, almost rendering a perception of mild sweetness to this style of beer. This is a medium-bodied, smoke and malt-emphasized beer • with malt character often balanced with low levels of yeast produced sulfur compounds (character). This beer should be perceived as having low bitterness. Certain renditions of this beer style approach a perceivable level of hop flavor (note: hop flavor does not imply hop bitterness) and character but it is essentially balanced with malt character to retain its style identity. Helles Rauchbier malt character is reminiscent of freshly and very lightly toasted sweet malted barley. There should not be any caramel character. Color is light straw to golden. Noble-type hop flavor is low but may be perceptible. The aroma should strike a balance between malt, hop, and smoke. Fruity esters, diacetyl, and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-13 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012 (2-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.4% (4.5-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-5.5 (8-11 EBC)

C. Bamberg-Style Bock Rauchbier

Bamberg-style Bock Rauchbier should have beechwood smoky characters that range from detectable to prevalent in the aroma and flavor. Smoke character is not harshly phenolic, but rather very smooth, almost rendering a perception of mild sweetness to this style of beer. The Bock beer character should manifest itself as a strong, malty, medium- to full-bodied with moderate hop bitterness that should increase proportionately with the starting gravity. Hop flavor should be low and hop aroma should be very low. Bocks can range in color from deep copper to dark brown. Fruity esters should be minimal. Diacetyl and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.066-1.074 (16.5-18 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.018-1.024 (4.5-6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6% (6-7.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20-30 (40-60 EBC)

D. Smoked Porter

Smoke porters are chestnut brown to black in color. They can exhibit a mild to assertive smoke character in balance with other beer characters. Black malt character can be perceived in some porters, while others may be absent of strong roast character. Roast barley character should be absent. Medium to full malt sweetness, caramel & chocolate are acceptable along with medium to medium-high hop bitterness. These beers are usually medium to full bodied. Fruity esters are acceptable. Hop flavor and aroma may vary from being negligible to medium in character. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.050 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.014 (1.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.0-7% (5.0-8.7%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20+ (40+ EBC)

E. Smoked Beer

Any style of beer can be smoked; the goal is to reach a balance between the style's character and the smoky properties. Type of wood or other sources of smoke should be specified as well as the style the beer is based upon.

F. Bamberg-Style Weiss

Bamberg-style Weiss Rauchbier should have smoky characters that range from detectable to prevalent in the aroma and flavor. Smoke character is not harshly phenolic, but rather very smooth, almost rendering a perception of mild sweetness to this style of beer. The aroma and flavor of a Weissbier with yeast is decidedly fruity and phenolic. The phenolic characteristics are often described as clove- or nutmeg-like and can be smoky or even vanilla-like. Banana-like esters are often present. These beers are made with at least 50 percent malted wheat, and hop rates are quite low. Hop flavor and aroma are absent. Weissbier is well attenuated and very highly carbonated and a medium- to full-bodied beer. The color is very pale to very dark amber. Darker (dunkel) styles should have a detectable degree of roast malt in the balance without being robust in overall character. Because yeast is present, the beer will have yeast flavor and a characteristically fuller mouthfeel and may be appropriately very cloudy. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.047-1.056 (11.8-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.9-4.4% (4.9-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-18 (8-36 EBC)

DIVISION 20: PILSENER

A. German-Style Pilsener

A classic German Pilsener is very light straw or golden in color and well hopped. Perception of hop bitterness is medium to high. Noble-type hop aroma and flavor are moderate and quite obvious. It is a well-attenuated, medium-light bodied beer, but a malty residual sweetness can be perceived in aroma and flavor. Very low levels of sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) character are below most beer drinkers' taste thresholds and are usually not detectable except to the trained or sensitive palate. Other fermentation or hop related sulfur compounds, when perceived at low levels, may be characteristic of this style. Fruity esters and diacetyl should not be perceived. There should be no chill haze. Its head should be dense and rich. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.6-4.2% (4-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-4 (6-8 EBC)

B. Bohemian-Style Pilsener

Traditional Bohemian Pilseners are medium-bodied, and they can be as dark as a light amber color. This style balances moderate bitterness and noble-type hop aroma and flavor with a malty, slightly sweet, medium body. Extremely low levels of diacetyl and low levels of sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) character, if perceived, are characteristic of this style, and both may accent malt aroma. A toasted, biscuit-like, bready malt character, along with low levels of sulfur compounds, may be evident. There should be no chill haze. Its head should be dense and rich. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.056 (11-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.020 (3.5-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4% (4-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-7 (6-14 EBC)

C. Italian Style Pilsner – NEW FOR 2026

Color: Straw to gold. Clarity: Appearance should be clear. Chill haze should not be present. Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor: A malty sweet aroma and flavor should be present at low levels. Light biscuity attributes may be present. Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor: Hop aroma and flavor is pronounced and aromatic, derived from late hopping and dry hopping with noble-type hops. Floral, herbal, peppery, or other attributes may be present. Perceived bitterness: Medium to high. Fermentation Characteristics: Fruity-ester and DMS should not be present. These are well-attenuated beers Body: Medium-low to medium. Additional notes: The head should be dense, pure white, and persistent. Hop character is assertive, crisp, and aromatic. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.052 (11-12.99 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.013 (1.5-3.3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.6%- 4.2% (4.6%-5.3%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 25-50 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-4 (6-8 EBC)

DIVISION 21: INTERNATIONAL- STYLE PILSENER

A. Any International-Style Pilsener

International Pilseners are straw/golden in color and are well attenuated. This medium-bodied beer is often brewed with rice, corn, wheat, or other grain or sugar adjuncts, making up part of the mash. Hop bitterness is low to medium & hop flavor and aroma are low. Residual malt sweetness is low--it does not predominate but may be perceived. Fruity esters and diacetyl should not be perceived. Very low levels of sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) character, if perceived, are acceptable. There should be no chill haze. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.010 (2-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.6-4.2% (4.5-5.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 17-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-4 (6-8 EBC)

DIVISION 22: EUROPEAN LAGER

A. Muchner-Style Helles

This beer should be perceived as having low bitterness. It is a medium-bodied, malt-emphasized beer with malt character often balanced with low levels of yeast-produced sulfur compounds (character). Certain renditions of this beer style approach a perceivable level of hop flavor (note: hop flavor does not imply hop bitterness) and character, but it is essentially balanced with malt character to retain its style identity. Malt character is sometimes bread-like yet always reminiscent of freshly and very lightly toasted malted barley. There should not be any caramel character. Color is light straw to golden. Fruity esters and diacetyl should not be perceived. There should be no chill haze. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012 (2-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.4% (4.5-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-5.5 (8-11 EBC)

B. Dortmunder/European-Style Export

Dortmunder has medium hop bitterness. Hop flavor and aroma from noble hops are perceptible but low. Sweet malt flavor can be low and should not be caramel-like. The color of this style is straw to deep golden. The body will be medium-bodied. Fruity esters, chill haze, and diacetyl should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.056 (12-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.014 (2.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4-4.8% (5-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 23-29 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-6 (6-12 EBC)

C. Kellerbier or Zwickelbier Unfiltered-Style Lager

Color: Varies depending on the underlying European origin ale style. **Clarity:** Can be slightly hazy to moderately cloudy. A small amount of yeast haze is acceptable and traditional. These beers must be unfiltered but may become clear with age. May exhibit poor head retention. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Varies depending on the underlying style. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Varies depending on underlying style. Low-level attributes typical of late or dry hopping may be present in some versions. **Perceived Bitterness:** Varies depending on underlying style. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low to medium yeast aroma and flavor is desirable. Very low to moderately low levels of sulfur should be apparent. Low levels of acetaldehyde or other volatiles, normally reduced during lagering, may or may not be apparent. The presence of sulfur and acetaldehyde should enhance the flavor of these beers. Fruity-estery levels may vary slightly from the underlying styles due to age and the presence of yeast. **Body:** Varies depending on underlying style. **Additional notes:** Kellerbier lagers are unfiltered versions of lager styles of European origin. These can include Munich-Style Helles, Dunkel, Dortmunder/Export, Bohemian Pilsener, German Pilsener, Bock, as well as less common traditional or contemporary European-origin lager styles. Kellerbiers have carbonation ranging from low to normal. These unfiltered beers are packaged and served with very low to moderate amounts of yeast. Contemporary versions may be filtered and dosed with yeast during packaging. Beers containing non-standard ingredients or aged in flavor-imparting vessels should be categorized elsewhere. During registration, brewers may specify pouring instructions, choosing quiet pouring or intentional rousing of yeast. Entries will be presented during judging as specified by the entering brewer. *To allow for accurate judging, the brewer must provide the classic German lager style on which the entry is based. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** Varies with style **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** Varies with style **Bitterness (IBU)** Varies with style **Color SRM (EBC)** Varies with style

DIVISION 23: LIGHT LAGER

A. American-Style Light Lager

These beers are extremely light colored, light in body, and high in carbonation. Calorie level should not exceed 125 per 12-ounce serving. Corn, rice, or other grain or sugar adjuncts are often used. Flavor is mild, and hop bitterness and aroma is negligible to very low. Light fruity esters are acceptable. Chill haze and diacetyl should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.024-1.040 (6-10 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.002-1.008 (0.5-2 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.8-3.5% (3.5-4.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-10 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 1.5-4 (3-8 EBC)

B. Contemporary American-Style Light Lager

Color: Very light to medium amber. The word 'Light' refers to a light body and reduced calories rather than color. **Clarity:** Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Very low but present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low to low. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are usually absent but may be present at very low levels. Diacetyl, acetaldehyde, and DMS should not be present. These beers are characterized by an extremely high degree of attenuation. Final gravity is often less than 1.000 (0.0 °Plato). **Body:** Low to medium-low, often with a dry mouthfeel. **Additional notes:** Corn, rice, or other grain or sugar adjuncts are often used, but all-malt formulations are also made. These beers are high in carbonation. Hop attributes, though subtle, are more evident

than in traditional American-Style Light Lager. Calories should not exceed 125 per 12-ounce serving. Low carb beers should have a maximum carbohydrate level of 3.0 gm per 12 oz. (355 ml) **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.024-1.04 (6.1-10 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 0.992-1.008 (minus 2.1-2.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.80%-3.50% (3.50%-4.40%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 4-15 **Color SRM (EBC)** 1.5-12(3-24 EBC)

C. Australasian, Latin American, or Tropical-Style Light Lager

Color: Straw to gold. **Clarity:** Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Malt sweetness is absent. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Not present to very low. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Sugar adjuncts are often used to lighten the body and flavor, sometimes contributing to very low to low fruity esters such as apple or pear. DMS, diacetyl, and acetaldehyde should not be present. **Body:** Low. **Additional notes:** Sugar, corn, rice, and other cereal grains or carbohydrate sources are used as adjuncts. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.038-1.046 (9.5-11.4 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.01 (1.5-2.6 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.20%-4.00% (4.10%-5.10%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 9-18 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-5(4-10 EBC)

D. Mexican Style Light Lager – NEW FOR 2026

Color: Straw to pale gold. **Clarity:** Appearance should be clear. Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-low pale malt sweetness and aroma may be present. May have adjunct flavors from corn and/or rice. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low with attributes typical of noble-type hops. **Perceived bitterness:** Very low to low. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Clean fermentation profile; low fruity esters may be present; sulfur may be present in very low levels. Diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Very low to low body with a dry finish. **Additional notes:** Pale lagers often made with 2-row pilsener malt may contain corn and/or rice to lighten body. Medium to medium-high carbonation and low final gravity produce a light-bodied beer that finishes dry.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.026-1.044 (6.5-11.0 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.003-1.010 (.77-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.5%-3.4% (3.2%-4.2%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 8-17 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-3 (4-6 EBC)

DIVISION 24: AMERICAN-STYLE LAGER

A. American-Style Lager

Light in body and very light to straw in color, American lagers are very clean and crisp and aggressively carbonated. Flavor components should be subtle and complex, with no one ingredient dominating the others. Malt sweetness is light to mild. Corn, rice, or other grain or sugar adjuncts are often used. Hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma are negligible to very light. Light fruity esters are acceptable. Chill haze and diacetyl should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.046 (10-11.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.010 (1.5-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4.0% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-13 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-4 (4-8 EBC)

B. Contemporary American-Style Lager

Color: Straw to gold. **Clarity:** Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Malt sweetness and aroma are very low to low. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low to low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are usually absent but may be present at very low levels. Diacetyl, acetaldehyde, and DMS should not be present. **Body:** Low. **Additional notes:** Corn, rice, or other grain or sugar adjuncts are often used, but all-malt formulations are also made. Contemporary American Lagers typically exhibit increased hop aroma and flavor compared to traditional versions, are clean and crisp, and aggressively carbonated. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.04-1.048 (10-11.9 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.20%-4.00% (4.10%-5.10%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 5-16 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-4(4-8 EBC)

C. American-Style Pilsner

This classic and unique pre-Prohibition American-style Pilsener is straw to deep gold in color. Hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma are medium to high, and the use of noble-type hops for flavor and aroma is preferred. Up to 25 percent corn and/or rice in the grist should be used. Malt flavor and aroma are medium. This is a light-medium to medium-bodied beer. Sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS), fruity esters, and citrus flavors or aromas should not be perceived. Diacetyl is not acceptable. There should be no chill haze. *Competition organizers may wish to subcategorize this style into rice and corn subcategories.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.060 (11.3-15 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.9-4.7% (5-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-6 (6-12 EBC)

D. Contemporary American-Style Pilsner

Color: Straw to gold. **Clarity:** Appearance should be clear. Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Medium-low to medium. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to high. While traditional versions exhibit attributes typical of noble-type hops, contemporary versions will exhibit attributes typical of a wide range of hop varieties. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium to medium-high **Fermentation Characteristics:** DMS, acetaldehyde, fruity esters, and diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Medium-low to medium. **Additional notes:** All-malt grists are commonly used; up to 25% corn or rice may be incorporated in the grist. Beers in this category diverge from American-style lagers typical of the pre-Prohibition era by virtue of a wide range of hop aroma and flavor attributes. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.053 (11.2-13 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.01-1.018 (2.5-4.6 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.90%-4.70% (4.90%-6.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-50 **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-6(6-12 EBC)

DIVISION 25: INDIA PALE LAGER OR COLD INDIA PALE ALE

A. Any India Pale Lager or Cold India Pale Ale

Color: Straw to gold. **Clarity:** Hop haze is allowable. Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to medium, and may exhibit bready, cracker-like, or other attributes typical of pale malts. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to high with attributes typical of hops of any origin. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium to high, but not harsh. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters range from absent to medium-low. DMS, acetaldehyde, & diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** low to medium. **Additional notes:** This style of beer should exhibit the fresh character of hops. Some versions may be brewed with corn, rice, or other adjunct grains and may exhibit attributes typical of those. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.05-1.065 (12.4-15.9 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.016 (1.5-4.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.40%-6.30% (5.60%-7.90%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-70 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2.5-6(5-12 EBC)

DIVISION 26: EUROPEAN-STYLE AMBER LAGER

A. Vienna-Style Lager

Beers in this category are reddish brown or copper colored. They are medium in body. The beer is characterized by a malty aroma and slight malt sweetness. The malt aroma and flavor should have a notable degree of toasted and/or slightly roasted malt character. Hop bitterness is clean and crisp. Noble-type hop aromas and flavors should be low or mild. Diacetyl, chill haze, and ale-like fruity esters should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.046-1.056 (11.5 - 13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.3% (4.8-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 22-28 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 12-16 (24-32 EBC)

B. German-Style Marzen

Märzens are characterized by a medium body and broad range of color. They can range from golden to reddish orange. Sweet maltiness should dominate slightly over a clean hop bitterness. Malt character should be light-toasted rather than strongly caramel (though a low level of light caramel character is acceptable). Bread or biscuit-like malt character is acceptable in aroma and flavor. Hop aroma and flavor should be low but notable. Ale-like fruity esters should not be perceived. Diacetyl and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.050-1.060 (12.5-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.020 (3-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4-4.7% (5.3-5.9%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-15 (8-30 EBC)

C. German-Style Oktoberfest

Today's Oktoberfest beers are characterized by a medium body and light, golden color. Sweet maltiness is mild with an equalizing balance of clean, hop bitterness. Hop aroma and flavor should be low but notable. Ale-like fruity esters should not be perceived. Diacetyl and chill haze should not be perceived. Similar or equal to Dortmunder/European-Style Export **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.056 (12-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.014 (2.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4-4.8% (5-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 23-29 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-5 (6-10 EBC)

DIVISION 27: AMERICAN-STYLE AMBER LAGER

A. American-Style Amber Lager

American-style amber lagers are light amber to amber or copper colored. They are medium-bodied. There is a noticeable degree of caramel-type malt character in flavor and often in aroma. This is a broad category in which the hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma may be accentuated or may only be present at relatively low levels, yet noticeable. Fruity esters, diacetyl, and chill haze should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.042-1.056 (10.5-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent**

Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato) 1.010-1.018 (2.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.3% (4.8-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-14 (12-28 EBC)

B. California Common Beer

California Common Beer is light amber to amber in color and is medium-bodied. There is a noticeable degree of caramel-type malt character in flavor and often in aroma. Hop bitterness impression is medium to medium high and is balanced with a low to medium-low degree of fruity esters and malt character and giving an impression of balance and drinkability. Hop flavor and aroma are low to medium-low. California Common Beer is a style of beer brewed with lager yeasts but at ale fermentation temperatures. Diacetyl and chill haze should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.056 (11.2-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.018 (2.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.6-4.5% (4-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 35-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-15 (24-34 EBC)

C. American-Style Maerzen/Octoberfest

Color: Pale to reddish brown. **Clarity:** Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Sweet maltiness should be present, expressed as a light toasted character. Bready or biscuity malt aroma and flavor is acceptable. Low-level caramel attributes are acceptable. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-low exhibiting herbal, grass-like, spicy, floral, or citrus attributes. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-low to medium. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters and diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Medium. **Additional notes:** This American version of a classic German beer is distinguished by a more pronounced hop character.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.05-1.06 (12.4-14.7 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.02 (3.1-5.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.00%-4.70% (5.10%-6.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-15(8-30 EBC)

DIVISION 28: DARK LAGER

A. European-Style Dark/Muncher Dunkel

These light brown to dark brown beers have a pronounced malty aroma and flavor that dominates over the clean, crisp, moderate hop bitterness. This beer does not offer an overly sweet impression, but rather a mild balance between malt sweetness, hop bitterness, and light to moderate mouthfeel. A classic Münchner dunkel should have a chocolate-like, roast malt, bread-like, or biscuit-like aroma that comes from the use of Munich dark malt. Chocolate or roast malts can be used, but the percentage used should be minimal. Noble-type hop flavor and aroma should be low but perceptible. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Ale-like fruity esters and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.056 (12-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.018 (3.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.2% (4.5-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 16-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-20 (30-40 EBC)

B. German-Style Schwarzbier

These very dark brown to black beers have a mild roasted malt character without the associated bitterness. This is not a full-bodied beer, but rather a moderate body gently enhances malt flavor and aroma with low to moderate levels of sweetness. Hop bitterness is low to medium in character. Noble-type hop flavor and aroma should be low but perceptible. There should be no fruity esters. Diacetyl should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.052 (11-13 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.016 (2.5-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3-3.9% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 22-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 25-30 (50-60 EBC)

C. American-Style Dark Lager

This beer's malt aroma and flavor are low but notable. Its color ranges from a very deep copper to a deep, dark brown. It has a clean, light body with discreet contributions from caramel and roasted malts. Non-malt adjuncts are often used, and hop rates are low. Hop bitterness is clean and has a short duration of impact. Hop flavor and aroma are low. Carbonation is high. Fruity esters, diacetyl, and chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.050 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012 (2-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4.4% (4-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 14-20 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 14-25 (28-50 EBC)

D. Mexican Style Dark Lager- NEW FOR 2026

Color: Dark copper to dark brown with ruby or garnet highlights. **Clarity:** Appearance should be clear with creamy beige to light brown foam. Chill haze should not be present. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to medium-high complex bready, toasty malt aroma and sweetness from the addition of darker specialty malts; light caramel, toast, nutty, and/or toffee flavors may be present. Low aromas and flavors from corn and/or rice may be present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** None to low with attributes typical of noble-type hops. **Perceived bitterness:** Very low to low 44. **Fermentation**

Characteristics: Clean fermentation profile; low fruity esters may be present; sulfur may be present at very low levels. Diacetyl should not be present. Body: Medium to medium-high with a dry finish. Additional notes: Grain bill may contain Munich and/or Vienna-type base malts. May also contain corn and/or rice. Small amounts of toasted and/or crystal and/or dextrin malts may be added for color and slight sweetness. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.053 (11.9-13.1 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.009-1.012 (2.3-3.1 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5%-4.6% (4.5%-5.8%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 12-28 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 16-30 (31-59 EBC)

DIVISION 29: GERMAN-STYLE BOCK

A. Traditional German-Style Bock

Traditional bocks are made with all malt and are strong, malty, medium- to full-bodied, bottom-fermented beers with moderate hop bitterness that should increase proportionately with the starting gravity. Malt character should be a balance of sweetness and toasted/nut-like malt, not caramel. Hop flavor should be low, and hop aroma should be very low. Bocks can range in color from deep copper to dark brown. Fruity esters should be minimal. Diacetyl should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.066-1.074 (16.5-18 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.018-1.024 (4.5-6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6% (6.3-7.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20-30 (40-60 EBC)

B. German-Style Heller Bock/Maibock

The German word *helle* means light colored, and as such, a heller Bock is light straw to deep golden in color. Maibocks are also light-colored bocks. The sweet malty character should come through in the aroma and flavor. A lightly toasted and/or bready malt character is often evident. Roast or heavy toast/caramel malt character should be absent. Body is medium to full. Hop bitterness should be low, while noble-type hop aroma and flavor may be at low to medium levels. Bitterness increases with gravity. Fruity esters may be perceived at low levels. Diacetyl should be absent. Chill haze should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.066-1.074 (16.5-18 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.020 (3-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6.4% (6-8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-38 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-10 (8-20 EBC)

C. German-Style Doppelbock

Malty sweetness is dominant but should not be cloying. Malt character is more reminiscent of fresh and lightly toasted Munichstyle malt, more so than caramel or toffee malt character. Some elements of caramel and toffee can be evident and contribute to complexity, but the predominant malt character is an expression of toasted barley malt. Doppelbocks are full-bodied and deep amber to dark brown in color. Astringency from roast malts is absent. Alcoholic strength is high, and hop rates increase with gravity. Hop bitterness and flavor should be low, and hop aroma absent. Fruity esters are commonly perceived but at low to moderate levels. Diacetyl should be absent **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.074-1.080 (18 – 19.3 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.020 (3.5-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.2-6.2% (6.5-8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 17-27 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 12-30 (24-60 EBC)

D. German-Style Eisbock

A stronger version of Doppelbock. Malt character can be very sweet. The body is very full and deep copper to almost black in color. Alcoholic strength is very high. Hop bitterness is subdued. Hop flavor and aroma are absent. Fruity esters may be evident but not overpowering. Typically, these beers are brewed by freezing a Doppelbock and removing the resulting ice to increase alcohol content. Diacetyl should be absent **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.074-1.116 (18-27.2 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** N/A **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.8-11.3% (8.6-14.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 26-33 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 18-50 (36-100 EBC)

DIVISION 30: AMERICAN CREAM ALE

A. Any American Cream Ale or Lager

Mild, pale, light-bodied ale, made using a warm fermentation (top or bottom) and cold lagering. Hop bitterness and flavor range from very low to low. Hop aroma is often absent. Sometimes referred to as cream ales, these beers are crisp and refreshing. Pale malt character predominates. Caramelized malt character should be absent. A fruity or estery aroma may be perceived. Diacetyl and chill haze should not be perceived. Sulfur character and/or sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) should be extremely low or absent from this style of beer. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.052 (11-13 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.010 (1-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.4-4.5% (4.2-5.6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-22 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-5 (4-10 EBC)

DIVISION 31: GOLDEN OR BLONDE BEER

A. Any Golden or Blonde Beer

Golden or Blonde ales are straw to golden blonde in color. They have a crisp, dry palate, light to medium body, and light malt sweetness. Low to medium hop aroma may be present but does not dominate. Bitterness is low to medium. Fruity esters may be perceived but do not predominate. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Chill haze should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.056 (11-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4% (4-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-7 (6-14 EBC)

DIVISION 32: ENGLISH-STYLE PALE ALE

A. Classic English-Style Pale Ale

Classic English pale ales are golden to copper colored and display earthy, herbal English-variety hop character. Note: earthy, herbal English-variety hop character is the perceived end, but may be a result of the skillful use of hops of other national origins. Medium to high hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma should be evident. This medium-bodied pale ale has low to medium malt flavor and aroma. Low caramel character is allowable. Fruity-ester flavors and aromas are moderate to strong. Chill haze may be in evidence only at very cold temperatures. The absence of diacetyl is desirable, though, diacetyl (butterscotch character) is acceptable and characteristic when at very low levels. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.056 (10-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.2% (4.5-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5 - 14 (10-28 EBC)

B. English-Style India Pale Ale

Most traditional interpretations of English-style India pale ales are characterized by medium-high hop bitterness with a medium to medium-high alcohol content. Hops from a variety of origins may be used to contribute to a high hopping rate. Earthy and herbal English-variety hop character is the perceived end, but may be a result of the skillful use of hops of other national origins. The use of water with high mineral content results in a crisp, dry beer, sometimes with subtle and balanced character of sulfur compounds. This pale gold to deep copper-colored ale has a medium to high, flowery hop aroma and may have a medium to strong hop flavor (in addition to the hop bitterness). English-style India pale ales possess medium maltiness and body. Fruity-ester flavors and aromas are moderate to very strong. Diacetyl can be absent or may be perceived at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. *Hops of other origins may be used for bitterness or approximating traditional English character.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.050-1.064 (12.5-15.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4-5.6% (5-7%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 35-63 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-14 (12-28 EBC)

C. English-Style Summer Ale

English Summer Ale is light straw to golden colored with medium-low to medium bitterness, light to medium-light body, and low to medium residual malt sweetness. Torrefied and/or malted wheat are often used in quantities of 25% or less. Malt flavor may be biscuit-like. English, American or Noble-type hop, character, flavor and aroma are evident and may or may not be assertive yet always well balanced with malt character. Mild carbonation traditionally characterizes draft-cask versions. In bottled versions, normal or lively carbon dioxide content is appropriate. The overall impression is refreshing and thirst quenching. Fruity-ester characters are acceptable at low to moderate levels. No butterscotch-like diacetyl or sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) should be apparent in aroma or flavor. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.050 (9-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.9-4% (3.6-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-7 (8-14 EBC)

D. English-Style Pale Mild

English pale mild ales range from golden to amber in color. Malt flavor dominates the flavor profile with little hop bitterness or flavor. Hop aroma can be light. Very low diacetyl flavors may be appropriate in this low-alcohol beer. Fruity-ester level is very low. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.036 (7.5-9 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.008 (1-2 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.7-3.2% (3.2-4.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-20 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-17 (16-34 EBC)

DIVISION 33: INTERNATIONAL-STYLE PALE ALE

A. Australian-Style Pale Ale

Australian Pale Ales are light amber to light brown. Chill or hop haze may be evident. Hop aroma is often reminiscent of tropical fruit such as mango, passion fruit and other tropical fruit character. Intensity can be low to medium-high. Malt character has a perceived low to medium caramel-candy sweetness. Hop flavor is aligned with aroma; tropical fruit such

as mango, passion fruit and other tropical fruit character. Intensity can be low to medium-high. Hop bitterness is low to medium. Fruity-ester aroma should be perceived. Diacetyl should be very low if present. DMS aroma should not be present. Body is low to medium. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.052 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.008 (1-2 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5%-5.2% (4.2%-6.2%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-14 (6-28 EBC)

B. International Style Pale

International Pale Ales are gold to light brown. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. Recognizing the wide range of distinctive hop flavors and aromas which characterize Pale Ales from around the world, International Pale Ales will be assessed on the merits that they do not fit existing Pale Ale guidelines (such as American, English or Australian). Low caramel malt aroma may be present. Hop aroma is absent to high and reflective of hop flavor. Very low to medium maltiness is present. Low caramel malt flavor may be present. Hop flavor is very low to high, and may reflect a wide range of characters evident in hop varieties from origins not otherwise outlined in these guidelines, for example, tropical fruity qualities typical of New Zealand hop varieties and/or spicy, woody or other qualities typical of German hop varieties, or other origins. Hop bitterness is medium to high. Fruity-ester flavor and aroma should be low to high. Diacetyl should be absent or present at very low levels. DMS should not be present. Body is low to medium. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.060 (10-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.014 (1.5-3.6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5%-5.2% (4.4%-6.6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-42 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-14 (10-28 EBC)

C. New Zealand-Style Pale Ale

Color: Straw to medium amber **Clarity:** Any of yeast, chill, or hop haze may be present in at low levels but are not essential **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to medium **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to medium-high, exhibiting attributes including any of tropical fruit, passionfruit, stone fruit, cut grass, or diesel **Perceived Bitterness:** Low to medium-high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low to medium fruity esters are acceptable but not essential. **Body:** Medium-low to medium with a dry finish. **Additional notes:** Overall impression is a well-integrated, easy drinking, refreshing pale ale style with distinctive fruity hop aromas and flavors. Diacetyl is absent in these beers. DMS should not be present. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.04-1.052 (10-13 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.01 (1.5-2.5 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.20%-4.70% (4.00%-6.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-40 **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-9(6-18 EBC)

DIVISION 34: AMERICAN-STYLE PALE ALE

A. Any American-Style Pale Ale

American pale ales range from deep golden to copper in color. The style is characterized by fruity, floral, and citrus-like American-variety hop character, producing medium to medium-high hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma. Note that the “traditional” style of this beer has its origins with certain floral, fruity, and citrus-like American hop varieties. One or more of these hop characters is the perceived end, but may be a result of the skillful use of hops of other national origins. American pale ales have a medium body and low to medium maltiness. Low caramel character is allowable. Fruity-ester flavor and aroma should be moderate to strong. Diacetyl should be absent or present at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (2-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.3% (4.5-5.6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-42 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-14 (12-28 EBC)

DIVISION 35: AMERICAN-STYLE JUICY OR HAZY PALE ALE

A. American Style Juicy or Hazy Pale Ale

Color: Straw to light amber. **Clarity:** Can vary widely from very low haze to a very high degree of cloudiness. Starch, yeast, hop, protein, or other compounds contribute to a wide range of hazy appearances within this category. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-low malt aroma and flavor may be present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium-high to very high hop aroma and flavor are present, exhibiting a very wide range of attributes, especially fruity, tropical, juicy, and many others. **Perceived bitterness:** Low to medium. The impression of bitterness is soft and well-integrated into the overall balance and may differ significantly from measured or calculated IBU levels. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Medium-low to medium-high fruity esters are present and can contribute to the perception of sweetness and be complementary to the hop profile. Diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Medium-low to medium-high. Perceived silky or full mouthfeel may contribute to the overall flavor profile. **Additional notes:** Grist may include oats, wheat, or other adjuncts to promote haziness. The term ‘juicy’ is frequently used to describe taste and aroma attributes often present in these beers, which result from late, often very large, additions of hops. A juicy character is not required, however. Other hop-

derived attributes, such as citrus, pine, spice, floral, or others, may be present with or without the presence of juicy attributes. Likewise, the term 'hazy' is frequently used to describe the appearance of many examples of these beers. However, some versions may exhibit very low cloudiness. Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.044-1.050 (11-12.4 °Plato) • Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato) 1.008- 1.014 (2.1-3.6 °Plato) • Alcohol by Weight (Volume) 3.5%-4.3% (4.4%-5.4%) • Hop Bitterness (IBU) 5-30; may differ significantly from perceived bitterness • Color SRM (EBC) 3-7 (6-14 EBC)

DIVISION 36: AMERICAN-STYLE STRONG PALE ALE

A. Any American-Style Strong Pale Ale

American strong pale ales range from deep golden to copper in color. The style is characterized by floral and citrus-like American-variety hops used to produce high hop bitterness, flavor, and aroma. Note that —floral and citrus-like American-variety hop character is the perceived end, but may be a result of the skillful use of hops of other national origins. American strong pale ales have medium body and low to medium maltiness. Low caramel character is allowable. Fruity-ester flavor and aroma should be moderate to strong. Diacetyl should be absent or present at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.050-1.060 (12.5-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.4-5% (5.5-6.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 40-50 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-14 (12-28 EBC)

DIVISION 37: AMERICAN-STYLE JUICY OR HAZY STRONG PALE ALE

A. American Style Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale

Color: Straw to light amber. **Clarity:** Can vary widely from very low haze to very high degree of cloudiness. Starch, yeast, hop, protein or other compounds contribute to a wide range of hazy appearance within this category. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-low malt aroma and flavor may be present **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium-high to very high hop aroma and flavor are present, exhibiting a very wide range of attributes, especially fruity, tropical, juicy, and many others. **Perceived bitterness:** Low to medium. The impression of bitterness is soft and well-integrated into overall balance and may differ significantly from measured or calculated IBU levels. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Medium-low to medium-high fruity esters may be present and can contribute to the perception of sweetness and be complementary to the hop profile. Diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Medium-low to medium-high. A silky or full mouthfeel may contribute to overall flavor profile. **Additional notes:** Grist may include oats, wheat, or other adjuncts to promote haziness. The term 'juicy' is frequently used to describe taste and aroma attributes often present in these beers which result from late, often very large, additions of hops. A juicy character is not required, however. Other hop-derived attributes such as citrus, pine, spice, floral or others may be present with or without the presence of juicy attributes. Likewise the term 'hazy' is frequently used to describe the appearance of many examples of these beers. However, some versions may exhibit very low cloudiness. These beers can exhibit astringency and heat (sometimes referred to as 'hop burn') as a result of very high hop usage rates and excessive contact time in beer, which can detract from balance and drinkability when present above low levels. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.050-1.058 (12.4-14.2 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.010 (1.6-2.7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.4%-5.05% (5.6%-6.4%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 15-40; may differ significantly from perceived bitterness • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-8 (6-16 EBC)

DIVISION 38: AMERICAN-STYLE INDIA PALE ALE

A. Any American-Style India Pale Ale

Color: Pale to copper **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. Hop haze is allowable at any temperature. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Medium-low to medium intensity malt attributes are present in aroma and flavor. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** High to very high, exhibiting a wide range of attributes including floral, piney, citrus, fruity (berry, tropical, stone fruit and other), sulfur, diesel-like, onion-garlic, catty, resinous, and many others. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-high to very high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are low to high. Diacetyl and DMS should not be present. **Body:** Medium-low to medium **Additional notes:** The use of water with high mineral content may result in a crisp, dry beer rather than a malt-accentuated version. Sugar adjuncts may be used to enhance body and balance. Hops of varied origins may be used for bitterness or for approximating traditional American character. Versions of this style brewed with non-traditional yeasts, fruits, spices, or other flavorings are categorized as Experimental India Pale Ales. Versions of this style brewed with darker malts, may be categorized as Experimental India Pale Ales, or possibly as American-Style Black Ale. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.06-1.07 (14.7-17.1 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.01-1.016 (2.5-4.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.00%-6.00% (6.30%-7.50%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 50-70 **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-12(8-24 EBC)

DIVISION 39: AMERICAN-STYLE JUICY OR HAZY INDIA PALE ALE

A. Any American-Style Juicy or Hazy India Pale Ale

Straw to, yeast, hop, protein and/or other compounds contribute to a wide range of hazy appearances within this category. Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor: Low to low-medium malt aroma and flavor may be present. Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor: Medium-high to very high hop aroma and flavor are present, with attributes typical of hops from any origin. Perceived Bitterness: Medium-low to medium. Fermentation Characteristics: Low to medium fruity-estery aroma and flavor may be present, but are usually overwhelmed by hop fruitiness. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Body: Medium-low to medium-high. Perceived silky or full mouthfeel may contribute to the overall flavor profile. Additional notes: Grist may include a small amount of oat, wheat or other adjuncts to promote haziness. Descriptors such as "juicy" are often used to describe the taste and aroma hop-derived attributes present in deep gold. Clarity: A Low to very high degree of cloudiness is typical of these beers. Starch these beers. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.060-1.070 (14.7-17.1 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2.0-4.1 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.0%-6.0% (6.3%-7.5%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 50-70; may differ from perceived bitterness • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-7 (8-14 EBC)

DIVISION 40: WEST COAST-STYLE INDIA PALE ALE

A. Any West Coast-Style India Pale Ale

Color: Straw to gold. **Clarity:** Chill haze or hop haze is acceptable at low levels. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-low. Caramel or roasted malt character should not be present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** High to very high, exhibiting a wide range of attributes including floral, piney, citrus, fruity (berry, tropical, stone fruit and other), sulfur, diesel-like, onion-garlic, catty, resinous, and many others. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-high to very high, but not harsh. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters range from low to medium. DMS, acetaldehyde, and diacetyl should not be present. These beers are characterized by a high degree of attenuation. **Body:** Low to medium. **Additional notes:** These beers are highly attenuated with an assertive hop character and a dry, crisp finish. *While the West Coast India Pale Ale style has been around for some time, the style itself has progressed over time from original inception to modern-day examples - this guideline serves to align directly with modern-day examples of the style.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.055-1.07 (13.5-17.1 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.005-1.016 (1.5-4.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6 (6.3-7.5) **Bitterness (IBU)** 50-75 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-6(4-12 EBC)

DIVISION 41: AMERICAN-STYLE BLACK ALE OR BLACK IPA

A. Any American-Style Black Ale or Black IPA

American-style Black Ale is perceived to have medium high to high hop bitterness, flavor and aroma with medium-high alcohol content, balanced with a medium body. Fruity, floral and herbal character from hops of all origins may contribute character. The style is further characterized by a moderate degree of caramel malt character and dark roasted malt flavor and aroma. High astringency and high degree of burnt roast malt character should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.056-1.075 (14-18.2 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6% (6 -7.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 50-70 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 35+ (70+ EBC)

DIVISION 42: IMPERIAL INDIA PALE ALE

A. Any Imperial India Pale Ale

Imperial or Double India Pale Ales have intense hop bitterness, flavor and aroma. Alcohol content is medium-high to high and notably evident. They range from deep golden to medium copper in color. The style may use any variety of hops. Though the hop character is intense it's balanced with complex alcohol flavors, moderate to high fruity esters and medium to high malt character. Hop character should be fresh and lively and should not be harsh in quality. The use of large amounts of hops may cause a degree of appropriate hop haze. Imperial or Double India Pale Ales have medium-high to full body. Diacetyl should not be perceived. The intention of this style of beer is to exhibit the fresh and bright character of hops. Oxidative character and aged character should not be present. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.075-1.100 (18.2-23.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.020 (3-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.0-8.4% (7.5-10.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 65-100 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-13 (10-26 EBC)

DIVISION 43: AMERICAN-STYLE JUICY OR HAZY IMPERIAL

A. Any American-Style Juicy or Hazy Imperial

Color: Straw to deep. Clarity: Low to very high degree of cloudiness is typical of these beers. Starch, yeast, hop, protein and/or other compounds contribute to a wide range of hazy appearance within this category. Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor: Low to high malt aroma and flavor may be present. Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor: High to very high hop aroma and flavor are present, with attributes typical of hops from any origin. Perceived Bitterness: Low to medium. Perceived impression of bitterness is soft and well-integrated into overall balance, and may differ significantly from measured or calculated IBU levels. Fermentation Characteristics: Low to medium fruity-estery aroma and flavor may be present, but are usually overwhelmed by hop character. Diacetyl should not be perceived. Body: Medium to high. Perceived silky or full mouthfeel may contribute to overall flavor profile. Additional notes: Grist may include a small amount of oat, wheat or other adjuncts to promote haziness. Descriptors such as "juicy" are often used to describe the taste and aroma hop-derived attributes present in these beers. Original **Gravity (°Plato)** 1.070-1.100 (17.1-23.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.020 (3.1-5.1 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.0%-8.4% (7.6%-10.6%) • **Hop Bitterness (IBU)** 65-100; may differ from perceived bitterness • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-7 (8-14 EBC)

DIVISION 44: AMERICAN-STYLE AMBER/RED ALE

A. Any American-Style Amber/Red Ale

American amber/red ales range from light copper to light brown in color. They are characterized by American-variety hops used to produce the perception of medium hop bitterness, flavor, and medium aroma. Amber ales have medium-high to high maltiness with medium to low caramel character. They should have medium to medium-high body. The style may have low levels of fruity ester flavor and aroma. Diacetyl can be either absent or barely perceived at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. Slight yeast haze is acceptable for bottle-conditioned products. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.058 (12-14.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.8% (4.5-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30 - 40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 11-18 (22-36 EBC)

DIVISION 45: IMPERIAL RED ALE

A. Any Imperial Red Ale

Imperial or Double Red Ales have intense hop bitterness, flavor and aroma. Alcohol content is also very high and of notable character. They range from deep amber to dark copper in color and may exhibit a small amount of chill haze at cold temperatures. The style may use any variety of hops. Though the hop character is intense it's balanced with complex alcohol flavors, moderate to high fruity esters and medium to high caramel malt character. Imperial or Double Red Ales have a full body. Diacetyl should not be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.080-1.100 (19.3-23.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.020-1.028 (5-7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.3-8.4% (7.9-10.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 55-85 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 10-15 (20-30 EBC)

DIVISION 46: BITTER

A. Ordinary Bitter

Ordinary bitter is gold to copper colored with medium bitterness, light to medium body, and low to medium residual malt sweetness. Hop flavor and aroma character may be evident at the brewer's discretion. Mild carbonation traditionally characterizes draft-cask versions, but in bottled versions, a slight increase in carbon dioxide content is acceptable. Fruity-ester character and very low diacetyl (butterscotch) character are acceptable in aroma and flavor, but should be minimized in this form of bitter. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. (*English and American hop character may be specified in subcategories.*) **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.033-1.038 (8.2-9.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.4-3.3% (3-4.1%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 5-12 (10-24 EBC)

B. Special/Best Bitter

Special bitter is more robust than ordinary bitter. It has a medium body and medium residual malt sweetness. It is deep gold to copper colored. Hop bitterness should be medium and absent of harshness. Hop flavor and aroma character may be evident at the brewer's discretion. Mild carbonation traditionally characterizes draft-cask versions, but in bottled versions, a slight increase in carbon dioxide content is acceptable. Fruity-ester character is acceptable in aroma and flavor. Diacetyl (butterscotch character) is acceptable and characteristic when at very low levels. The absence of diacetyl is also acceptable. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. (*English & American hop character may be specified in subcategories*) **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.038-1.045 (9.5-11.2 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.3-3.8% (4.1-4.8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 28-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-14 (12-28 EBC)

C. English-Style Extra Special Bitter

Extra special bitter possesses medium to strong hop aroma, flavor, and bitterness. The residual malt and defining sweetness of this richly flavored, full-bodied bitter is more pronounced than in other styles of bitter. It is light amber to copper colored with medium to medium-high bitterness. Mild carbonation traditionally characterizes draft-cask versions, but in bottled versions, a slight increase in carbon dioxide content is acceptable. Fruity-ester character is acceptable in aroma and flavor. Diacetyl (butterscotch character) is acceptable and characteristic when at very low levels. The absence of diacetyl is also acceptable. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. English or American hops may be used. (*English and American hop character may be specified in subcategories.*) **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.046-1.060 (11.5-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.016 (2.5-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.6% (4.8-5.8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-14 (16-28 EBC)

D. American-Style Extra Special Bitter

Color: Amber to deep copper **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to medium-high **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to medium-high and typical of American or other origin hop varieties **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium to medium-high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low carbonation traditionally characterizes draft-cask versions, but in bottled versions, a slight increase in carbon dioxide content is acceptable. The overall impression is refreshing and thirst quenching. Fruity esters are acceptable. Diacetyl is usually absent in these beers but may be present at low levels. **Body:** Medium to full **Additional notes:** Entries in this subcategory exhibit hop aroma and flavor attributes typical of hops of many origins, which may deviate substantially from the hallmark attributes typical of traditional English hop varieties. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.046-1.06 (11.4-14.7 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.01-1.016 (2.6-4.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.80%-4.60% (4.80%-5.80%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-45 **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-14(16-28 EBC)

DIVISION 47: SCOTTISH-STYLE ALE

A. Scottish-Style Light Ale

Scottish light ales are light-bodied. Little bitterness is perceived, and hop flavor or aroma should not be perceived. Despite its lightness, Scottish light ale will have a degree of malty, caramel-like, soft, and chewy character. Yeast characters such as diacetyl (butterscotch) and sulfuriness are acceptable at very low levels. The color will range from golden amber to deep brown. Bottled versions of this traditional draft beer may contain higher amounts of carbon dioxide than is typical for mildly carbonated draft versions. Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. Though there is little evidence suggesting that traditionally made Scottish-style light ales exhibited peat smoke character, the current marketplace offers many Scottish-style light ales with peat or smoke character present at low to medium levels. Thus, a peaty/smoky character may be evident at low levels (ales with medium or higher smoke character would be considered a smoke-flavored beer and considered in another category). *Scottish-style light ales may be split into two subcategories: Traditional (no smoke character) and Peated (low level of peat smoke character).* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.035 (7.5-8.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.012 (1.5-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.2-2.8% (2.8-3.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 9-20 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-17 (16-34 EBC)

B. Scottish-Style Heavy Ale

Scottish heavy ale is moderate in strength and dominated by a smooth, sweet maltiness balanced with low, but perceptible, hop bitterness. Hop flavor or aroma should not be perceived. Scottish heavy ale will have a medium degree of malty, caramel-like, soft, and chewy character in flavor and mouthfeel. It has a medium body, and fruity esters are very low, if evident. Yeast characters such as diacetyl (butterscotch) and sulfuriness are acceptable at very low levels. The color will range from golden amber to deep brown. Bottled versions of this traditional draft beer may contain higher amounts of carbon dioxide than is typical for mildly carbonated draft versions. Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. Though there is little evidence suggesting that traditionally made Scottish-style heavy ales exhibited peat smoke character, the current marketplace offers many Scottish-style heavy ales with peat or smoke character present at low to medium levels. Thus a peaty/smoky character may be evident at low levels (ales with medium or higher smoke character would be considered a smoke flavored beer and considered in another category). *Scottish-style heavy ales may be split into two subcategories: Traditional (no smoke character) and Peated (low level of peat smoke character).* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.035-1.040 (8.8-10 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.014 (2.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.8-3.2% (3.5-4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 12-20 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 10-19 (20-38 EBC)

C. Scottish-Style Export

The overriding character of Scottish export ale is sweet, caramel-like, and malty. Its bitterness is perceived as low to medium. Hop flavor or aroma should not be perceived. It has medium body. Fruity-ester character may be apparent.

Yeast characters such as diacetyl (butterscotch) and sulfuriness are acceptable at very low levels. The color will range from golden amber to deep brown. Bottled versions of this traditional draft beer may contain higher amounts of carbon dioxide than is typical for mildly carbonated draft versions. Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. Though there is little evidence suggesting that traditionally made Scottish-style export ales exhibited peat smoke character, the current marketplace offers many Scottish-style export ales with peat or smoke character present at low to medium levels. Thus a peaty/smoky character may be evident at low levels (ales with medium or higher smoke character would be considered a smoke-flavored beer and considered in another category). Scottish-style export ales may be split into two subcategories: Traditional (no smoke character) and Peated (low level of peat smoke character). **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.050 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.018 (2.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4.2% (4.0-5.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 10-19 (20-38 EBC)

DIVISION 48: IRISH-STYLE RED ALE

A. Any Irish-Style Red Ale

Irish-style red ales range from light red-amber-copper to light brown in color. These ales have a medium hop bitterness and flavor. They often don't have hop aroma. Irish-style red ales have low to medium candy-like caramel sweetness and a medium body. The style may have low levels of fruity-ester flavor and aroma. Diacetyl should be absent or at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. Slight yeast haze is acceptable for bottle-conditioned products.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.040-1.048 (10-12 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.014 (2.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-3.6% (4-4.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-28 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 11-18 (22-36 EBC)

DIVISION 49: ENGLISH-STYLE BROWN ALE

A. English Style Dark Mild

English dark mild ales range from deep copper to dark brown (often with a red tint) in color. Malt flavor and caramel are part of the flavor and aroma profile while licorice and roast malt tones may sometimes contribute to the flavor and aroma profile. Body should be low-medium to medium. These beers have very little hop flavor or aroma. Very low diacetyl flavors may be appropriate in this low-alcohol beer. Fruity-ester level is very low. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.030-1.036 (7.5-9 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.008 (1-2 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.7-3.2% (3.2-4.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-24 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 17-34 (34-68 EBC)

B. English Style Brown Ale

English brown ales range from deep copper to brown in color. They have a medium body and a dry to sweet maltiness with very little hop flavor or aroma. Roast malt tones may sometimes contribute to the flavor and aroma profile. Low to medium-low levels of fruity-ester flavors are appropriate. Diacetyl should be very low, if evident. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.050 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (2-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.3-4.7% (4-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-25 (30-50 EBC)

DIVISION 50: AMERICAN-STYLE BROWN ALE

A. Any American-Style Brown Ale

American brown ales range from deep copper to brown in color. Roasted malt caramel-like and chocolate-like characters should be of medium intensity in both flavor and aroma. American brown ales have evident low to medium hop flavor and aroma, medium to high hop bitterness, and a medium body. Estery and fruity-ester characters should be subdued.

Diacetyl should not be perceived. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.060 (10-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.018 (2.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.3-5.0% (4-6.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-26 (30-52 EBC)

DIVISION 51: GERMAN-STYLE ALE

A. German-Style Kolsch

Kölsch is warm-fermented and aged at cold temperatures (German ale or alt-style beer). Kölsch is characterized by a golden to straw color and slightly dry, subtly sweet softness on the palate, yet crisp. Good, dense head retention is desirable. A light fruitiness may be apparent, but it is not necessary for this style. Caramel character should not be evident. The body is light to medium-light. This beer has low hop flavor and aroma with medium bitterness. Wheat can be used in brewing this beer. Ale yeast is used for fermentation, though lager yeast is sometimes used in the bottle or final

cold conditioning process. Fruity esters should be minimally perceived, if at all. Chill haze should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.042-1.048 (10.5-12 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.010 (1.5-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.2% (4.8-5.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 18-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-6 (8-12 EBC)

B. German-Style Altbier

Copper to brown color, this German ale may be highly hopped and intensely bitter (although 25 to 35 IBU range is more normal for the majority of Altbiers from Düsseldorf) and has a medium body and malty flavor. A variety of malts, including wheat, may be used. Hop character may be low to medium in the flavor and aroma. The overall impression is clean, crisp, and flavorful, often with a dry finish. Fruity esters can be low. No diacetyl or chill haze should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.052 (11-13 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (2-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.6-4.4% (4.3-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-52 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 11-19 (22-38 EBC)

DIVISION 52: GERMAN-STYLE WEISS BEER

A. South German-Style Dunkel Weizen

This beer style is characterized by a distinct sweet maltiness and a chocolate-like character from roasted malt. Estery and phenolic elements of this Weissbier should be evident but subdued. Color can range from copper-brown to dark brown. Dunkel Weissbier is well attenuated and very highly carbonated, and hop bitterness is low. Hop flavor and aroma are absent. Usually dark barley malts are used in conjunction with dark cara or color malts, and the percentage of wheat malt is at least 50 percent. If this is served with yeast, the beer may be appropriately very cloudy. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.048-1.056 (12-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.3% (4.8-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 10-19 (20-38 EBC)

B. South German-Style Kristal Weizen

The aroma and flavor of a Weissbier without yeast is very similar to Weissbier with yeast (Hefeweizen/Hefeweissbier), with the caveat that fruity and phenolic characters are not combined with the yeasty flavor and fuller-bodied mouthfeel of yeast. The phenolic characteristics are often described as clove- or nutmeg-like and can be smoky or even vanilla-like. Banana-like esters are often present. These beers are made with at least 50 percent malted wheat, and hop rates are quite low. Hop flavor and aroma are absent. Weissbier is well attenuated and very highly carbonated, yet its relatively high starting gravity and alcohol content make it a medium- to full-bodied beer. The color is very pale to deep golden. Because the beer has been filtered, yeast is not present. The beer will have no flavor of yeast and a cleaner, drier mouthfeel. The beer should be clear with no chill haze present. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.047-1.056 (11.8-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.9-4.4% (4.9-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-9 (6-18 EBC)

C. South German-Style Weizenbock

This style can be either pale or dark (golden to dark brown in color) and has a high starting gravity and alcohol content. The malty sweetness of a Weizenbock is balanced with a clove-like phenolic and fruity-estery banana element to produce a well-rounded aroma and flavor. As is true with all German wheat beers, hop bitterness is low, and carbonation is high. Hop flavor and aroma are absent. It has a medium to full body. If dark, a mild roast malt character should emerge in flavor and to a lesser degree in the aroma. If this is served with yeast, the beer may be appropriately very cloudy. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.066-1.080 (16-19.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.016-1.028 (4-7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-7.5% (6.9-9.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-35 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4.5-30 (9-60 EBC)

D. Berliner-Style Weisse

This is very pale in color and the lightest of all the German wheat beers. The unique combination of yeast and lactic acid bacteria fermentation yields a beer that is acidic, highly attenuated, and very light-bodied. The carbonation of a Berliner Weisse is high, and hop rates are very low. Clarity may be hazy or cloudy from yeast or chill haze. Hop character should not be perceived. Fruity esters will be evident. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.028-1.032 (7-8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.006 (1-1.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.2-2.7% (2.8-3.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 3-6 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-4 (4-8 EBC)

E. Specialty-Berliner-Style Weisse

Color: While traditional Berliners are the lightest of all the German wheat beers, ranging from straw to pale, Specialty Berliners are brewed, packaged, or served with fruit(s), darker malt(s), syrups or other ingredients, and therefore may take on corresponding hues. **Clarity:** May appear hazy or cloudy from yeast or chill haze. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Malt sweetness is absent. Very low to low level attributes of darker malts (if used) may be present. **Perceived Hop**

Aroma & Flavor: Not present **Perceived Bitterness:** Not present to very low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are low to medium. Diacetyl should not be perceived. *Brettanomyces* character may be absent or present at low to medium levels, and if present may be expressed as horsey, goaty, leathery, phenolic, fruity and/or acidic aromas and flavors. The unique combination of yeast and lactic acid bacteria fermentation yields a beer that is acidic and highly attenuated. **Body:** Very low. **Additional notes:** Carbonation is high. Specialty Berliners are brewed or served with fruit or fruit syrups, spices or herbal syrups, darker malts or a wide range of other ingredients, and will exhibit sensory attributes typical of those ingredients, such as hue, aroma, taste, and body. *To allow for accurate judging, brewers must list the fruit(s), herb(s), or spice(s), darker malt(s), or other flavor(s) or ingredients used, which differentiate these beers from traditional Berliners. Entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.028-1.044 (7.1-11 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.006 (1-1.5 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.20%-4.00% (2.80%-5.00%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 3-6 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-4 (higher if darker malts are used)(4-8 (higher if darker malts are used) EBC)

F. Leipzig-Style Gose

Traditional examples of Gose are spontaneously fermented, similarly to Belgian-style gueuze/lambic beers, and should exhibit complexity of acidic, flavor and aroma contributed by introduction of wild yeast and bacteria into the fermentation. A primary difference between Belgian Gueuze and German Gose is that Gose is served at a much younger age. Gose is typically pale gold to pale amber in color and typically contains malted barley, unmalted wheat, with some traditional varieties containing oats. Hop character and malt flavors and aromas are negligible. Lemony or other citrus-like qualities are often present in aroma and on the palate. Some versions may have the spicy character of added coriander in aroma and on the palate at low to medium levels. Salt (table salt) character is also traditional in low amounts. Horsey, leathery, earthy aroma and flavors contributed by *Brettanomyces* yeasts may be evident but have a very low profile, as this beer is not excessively aged. Modern German Gose breweries typically introduce only pure beer yeast strains for fermentation. Low to medium lactic acid character is evident in all examples as sharp, refreshing sourness. Gose is typically enjoyed fresh, carbonated, and cloudy/hazy with yeast character, and may have evidence of continued fermentation activity. Overall complexity of flavors and aromas are sought while maintaining an ideal balance between acidity, yeast-enhanced spice and refreshment is ideal. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.056 (9-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012 (2-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.3% (4.4-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-9 (6-18 EBC)

G. Contemporary Gose

Contemporary Goses are straw to medium amber, or may take on the hue of added fruits or other ingredients if present. Appearance is cloudy/hazy with yeast character, and may have evidence of continued fermentation activity. A wide variety of herbal, spice, floral, or fruity aromas other than those found in traditional Leipzig-Style Gose are present, in harmony with other aromas. Horsey, leathery or earthy aromas contributed by *Brettanomyces* yeasts may be evident but have a very low profile, as this beer is not excessively aged. Hop aroma is not perceived. Malt sweetness is not perceived to very low. They typically contain malted barley and unmalted wheat, with some traditional varieties containing oats. Hop flavor is not perceived. Hop bitterness is not perceived. A wide variety of herbal, spice, floral, or fruity flavors other than those found in traditional Leipzig-Style Gose, are present in harmony with the overall flavor profile. Salt (table salt) character and coriander are traditional in low amounts, but may vary from absent to present in Contemporary Gose. Horsey, leathery or earthy flavors contributed by *Brettanomyces* yeasts may be evident but have a very low profile, as this beer is not excessively aged. Contemporary Gose may be fermented with pure beer yeast strains or with yeast mixed with bacteria. Body is low to medium-low. Contemporary Gose differs from Traditional Gose by the addition of fruits, spices, grains, and other non-traditional ingredients. Contemporary Gose may be spontaneously fermented, similarly to Belgian-style gueuze/lambic beers; such entries should exhibit complexity of acidic, flavor, and aroma contributed by introduction of wild yeast and bacteria into the fermentation. Low to medium lactic acid character is evident in all examples as sharp, refreshing sourness. A primary difference between Belgian Gueuze and Gose is that Gose is served at a much younger age. Gose is typically enjoyed fresh and carbonated. Overall complexity of flavors and aromas sought while maintaining a balance between acidity, yeast-enhanced spice, and refreshment is ideal. *To allow for accurate judging brewer must provide supplemental information such as grains, spices, fruits or any other flavors used, and/or information about the brewing process. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.036-1.056 (9.0-13.8 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012 (2.1-3.1 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5%-4.3% (4.4%-5.4%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-9(6-18 EBO)

DIVISION 53: SOUTH GERMAN-STYLE HEFEWEIZEN

A. South German-Style Hefeweizen

The aroma and flavor of a Weissbier with yeast is decidedly fruity and phenolic. The phenolic characteristics are often described as clove- or nutmeg-like and can be smoky or even vanilla-like. Banana-like esters should be present at low to

medium-high levels. These beers are made with at least 50 percent malted wheat, and hop rates are quite low. Hop flavor and aroma are absent or present at very low levels. Weissbier is well attenuated and very highly carbonated and medium to full bodied beer. The color is very pale to pale amber. Because yeast is present, the beer will have yeast flavor and a characteristically fuller mouthfeel and may be appropriately very cloudy. No diacetyl should be perceived. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.047-1.056 (11.8-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.9-4.4% (4.9-5.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-15 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-9 (6-18 EBC)

DIVISION 54: BELGIAN-STYLE WIT OR WHITE ALE

A. Any Belgian-Style Wit or White Ale

Belgian white ales are very pale in color and are brewed using unmalted wheat and malted barley and are spiced with coriander and orange peel. Coriander and light orange peel aroma should be perceived as such or as an unidentified spiciness. Phenolic spiciness and yeast flavors may be evident at mild levels. These beers are traditionally bottle conditioned and served cloudy. An unfiltered starch and yeast haze should be part of the appearance. The low to medium body should have some degree of creaminess from wheat starch. The style is further characterized by the use of noble-type hops to achieve low hop bitterness and little to no apparent hop flavor. This beer has no diacetyl and a low to medium fruity-ester level. Mild acidity is appropriate. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.050 (11-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.010 (1.5-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-4.4% (4.8-5.2%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 10-17 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-4 (4-8 EBC)

DIVISION 55: SAISON

A. Classic Saison

Color: Straw to light amber **Clarity:** Chill haze or slight yeast haze is acceptable **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low, but providing foundation for the overall balance. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium and characterized by any of floral, herbal, woody or other attributes typical of European-type hops are common. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-low to medium, but not assertive. **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are medium to high. Low to medium-low level phenolics may be present, expressed as spice-like or other attributes. Phenolics should not be harsh or dominant and should be in harmony with ester profile and hops. Fruity and spicy black pepper attributes derived from Belgian yeast are common. Diacetyl should not be present. Low levels of *Brettanomyces* yeast-derived aroma and flavor attributes, including any of slightly acidic, fruity, horsey, goaty, or leather-like, may be present but are not required. These beers are well attenuated and often bottle conditioned, contributing some yeast character and high carbonation. Versions that exhibit sensory attributes typical of wood-aging are characterized as Specialty Saison. **Body:** Very low to low **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.04-1.06 (10-14.7 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.008 (1-2 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.00%-5.40% (5.00%-6.80%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-38 **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-7(6-14 EBC)

B. Specialty Saison

Color: Straw to dark brown; may take on hue of fruit(s), darker malts, or other ingredients **Clarity:** Chill haze or slight yeast haze is acceptable **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Typically low to medium-low, but may vary in beers made with specialty malts. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium-high. **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium to medium-high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are medium to high. Diacetyl should not be present. Complex alcohols, herbs, spices, low *Brettanomyces* attributes, including slightly acidic, fruity, horsey, goaty, and leather-like, as well as clove-like and smoky phenolics may be present. Herb or spice flavors, including notes of black pepper, may be present. A low level of sour acidic flavor is acceptable when in balance with other components. Because these beers are often bottle conditioned, they may display some yeast character and high carbonation. **Body:** Low to medium. **Additional notes:** Specialty Saison represents a very wide family of beers that deviate substantially from Classic Saison in appearance & sensory outcomes. Such beers are brewed with dark malts, fruit(s), spice(s), or a wide range of ingredients. Ingredients including spices, herbs, flowers, fruits, vegetables, fermentable sugars and carbohydrates, special yeasts of all types, wood-aging, etc. may contribute unique attributes to these beers. Earthy or cellar-like aromas are acceptable. Color, body, malt character, esters, alcohol level, and hop character should harmonize with attributes from special ingredients. Versions of Saison that exhibit sensory attributes typical of wood-aging are categorized as Specialty Saison. *To allow for accurate judging, brewers must list the fruit(s), herb(s) or spice(s), darker malt(s) or other flavor(s), ingredients or wood-aging used which differentiate these beers from Classic Saison. Entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.04-1.08 (10-19.3 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (2-3.5 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.00%-7.40% (5.00%-9.30%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-40 **Color SRM (EBC)** 3-20(6-40 EBC)

DIVISION 56: FRENCH & BELGIAN-STYLE PALE ALE

A. Belgian-Style Speciale Belge

Color: Gold to light copper. **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Malt aroma should be low. Caramel or toasted malt attributes are acceptable. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to medium. Noble-type hops are commonly used. **Perceived Bitterness:** Low to medium **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low to medium fruity esters are present. Yeast-derived phenolic spicy flavors and aromas should be present at low to medium-low levels. Diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Low to medium **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.04-1.054 (10-13.3 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.014 (2.1-3.6 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.10%-5.00% (5.10%-6.30%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-12(8-24 EBC)

B. Belgian-Style Blond Ale

Color: Straw to light amber **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to low. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Very low to medium. Noble-type hops are commonly used. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low to medium-low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low to medium fruity esters are balanced with low-level malt attributes. Low-level yeast-derived phenolic spiciness may be present. Diacetyl and acidic character should not be present. **Body:** Low to medium **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.054-1.068 (13.3-16.6 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.01-1.014 (2.6-3.6 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.00%-6.20% (6.30%-7.90%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-40 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-7(4-14 EBC)

C. French-Style Biere de Garde

Beers in this category are golden to deep copper or light brown in color. They are light to medium in body. This style of beer is characterized by a toasted malt aroma, slight malt sweetness in flavor, and low to medium hop bitterness. Noble-type hop aromas and flavors should be low to medium. Fruity esters can be light to medium in intensity. Flavor of alcohol is evident. Earthy, cellarlike, musty aromas are okay. Diacetyl should not be perceived but chill haze is okay. Often bottle conditioned with some yeast character. French-Style Bière de Garde may have *Brettanomyces* characters that are slightly acidity, fruity, horsey, goaty and/or leather-like. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.060-1.080 (15-19.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/ Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.024 (3-6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-6.3% (4.5-8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-16 (16-32 EBC)

DIVISION 57: BELGIAN-STYLE SOUR ALE

A. Belgian-Style Flanders/Oud Bruin or Red Ale

This light- to medium-bodied deep copper to brown ale is characterized by a slight to strong lactic sourness, and with “Reds” sometimes a balanced degree of acetic acid. *Brettanomyces* produced flavors & aromas are not part of character. A fruity-estery character which is often cherry-like is apparent with no hop flavor or aroma. Flanders brown ales have low to medium bitterness and a cocoa-like character from roast malt. Roasted malt character in aroma & flavor is acceptable at low levels. A very low degree of malt sweetness may be present & in balance with the acidity produced by lactobacillus activity. Oak-like or woody characters may be integrated into overall palate. Chill haze is acceptable at low serving temperatures. Some versions may be more highly carbonated and, when bottle conditioned, may appear cloudy (yeast) when served. These final beers are often blended old with new in order to create the brewer’s intended character balance. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.056 (11-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.8-5.2% (4.8-6.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-25 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 12-20 (24-40 EBC)

B. Belgian-Style Gueuze Lambic

Old lambic is blended with newly fermenting young lambic to create this special style of lambic. Gueuze is always refermented in the bottle. These unflavored blended and secondary fermented lambic beers may be very dry or mildly sweet and are characterized by intense fruity-estery, sour, and acidic aromas and flavors. These pale beers are brewed with unmalted wheat, malted barley, and stale, aged hops. Sweet malt characters are not perceived. They are very low in hop bitterness. Diacetyl should be absent. Characteristic horsey, goaty, leathery and phenolic character evolved from *Brettanomyces* yeast is often present at moderate levels. Cloudiness is acceptable. These beers are quite dry and light bodied. Vanillin and other woody flavors should not be evident. Versions of this beer made outside of the Brussels area of Belgium cannot be true lambics. These versions are said to be “lambic-style” and may be made to resemble many of the beers of true origin. *Historically, traditional gueuze lambics are dry and completely attenuated, exhibiting no residual sweetness either from malt, sugar or artificial sweeteners. Some versions often have a degree of sweetness, contributed by sugars or artificial sweeteners. Competition organizers may choose to subcategorize this style into A) Traditional and B) Sweet • Artificial sweeteners are sometimes used.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.056 (11-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.000-1.010 (0-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-7% (6.8-8.6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 11-23 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-13 (12-26 EBC)

C. Belgian-Style Fruit Lambic

These beers, also known by the names framboise, kriek, peche, cassis, etc., are characterized by fruit flavors and aromas. The color reflects the choice of fruit. Sourness is an important part of the flavor profile, though sweetness may compromise the intensity. These flavored lambic beers may be very dry or mildly sweet and range from a dry to a full-bodied mouthfeel. Characteristic horsey, goaty, leathery and phenolic character evolved from *Brettanomyces* yeast is often present at moderate levels. Vanillin and other woody flavors should not be evident. Versions of this beer made outside of the Brussels area of Belgium cannot be true lambics. These versions are said to be "lambic-style" and may be made to resemble many of the beers of true origin. *Historically, traditional lambics are dry and completely attenuated, exhibiting no residual sweetness either from malt, sugar, fruit or artificial sweeteners. Some versions often have a degree of sweetness, contributed by fruit sugars, other sugars or artificial sweeteners. Competition organizers may choose to subcategorize this style into A) Traditional and B) Sweet* • **Artificial sweeteners are sometimes used. Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.072 (10-17.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.5-7% (5.6-8.6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-21 • **Color SRM (EBC)** Color takes on the hue of fruit.

D. Belgian-Style Lambic

Unblended, naturally and spontaneously fermented lambic is intensely estery, sour, and sometimes, but not necessarily, acetic flavored. Low in carbon dioxide, these hazy beers are brewed with unmalted wheat and malted barley. Sweet malt characters are not perceived. They are very low in hop bitterness. Cloudiness is acceptable. These beers are quite dry and light bodied. Characteristic horsey, goaty, leathery and phenolic character evolved from *Brettanomyces* yeast is often present at moderate levels. Versions of this beer made outside of the Brussels area of Belgium cannot be true lambics. These versions are said to be "lambicstyle" and may be made to resemble many of the beers of true origin. Vanillin and other woody flavors should not be evident. *Historically, traditional lambic is dry and completely attenuated, exhibiting no residual sweetness either from malt, sugar or artificial sweeteners. Sweet versions may be created through addition of sugars or artificial sweeteners. Competition organizers may choose to subcategorize this style into A) Traditional and B) Sweet. Artificial sweeteners are sometimes used in some brands.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.047-1.056 (11.8-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.000-1.010 (0-2.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6.5% (6.2-8.1%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 11-23 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-13 (12-26 EBC)

E. Contemporary Belgian-Style Spontaneously Fermented Ale

Color: Gold to very dark **Clarity:** Cloudiness is acceptable, as these beers are frequently bottle conditioned. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Sweet malt character is not present. Some versions may exhibit attributes typical of specialty malts. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Not present to low and can include cheesy, floral or other attributes typical of aged or unaged hops. **Perceived Bitterness:** Very low **Fermentation Characteristics:** These blended and secondary fermented beers may be very dry or mildly sweet. They are characterized by intense fruity ester, sour, and acidic attributes which only result from spontaneous fermentation. Diacetyl should not be present. Characteristic horsey, goaty, leathery, and phenolic aromas and flavors derived from *Brettanomyces* yeast are often present at moderate levels. Aged beer is often blended with young beer to create this special style. Vanillin and other wood-derived flavors may range from absent to present at up to low-medium levels. Carbonation can be none (flat) to high. **Body:** Very low with dry mouthfeel **Additional notes:** Contemporary Belgian-Style Spontaneous Fermented Ales takes its inspiration from the Traditional Gueuze whose origin is the Brussels area of Belgium. But these beers incorporate specialty malts, spice(s), fruit(s), or many other diverse ingredients and processes that influence the hue, aroma and flavor outcomes of the finished beers such that they differ significantly from traditional examples. *To allow for accurate judging the brewer must list the non-traditional malts, spice(s), fruit(s)/vegetable(s), sweeteners or any other ingredients or processes used which differentiate the entry from Traditional Belgian-Style Gueuze Lambic and which influence sensory outcomes. Beer entries not accompanied by this information will be at a disadvantage during judging.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.044-1.072 (11-17.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.004-1.016 (1-4.1 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.00%-7.00% (5.00%-8.90%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 11-23 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-40(12-80 EBC)

DIVISION 58: BELGIAN-STYLE DARK ALE

A. Belgian-Style Dubbel

This medium-bodied, red to dark brown colored ale has a malty sweetness and chocolate-like caramel aroma. A light hop flavor and/or aroma is acceptable. Dubbels are also characterized by low-medium to medium bitterness. No diacetyl is acceptable. Yeast generated fruity esters (especially banana) are appropriate at low levels. Head retention is dense and mousse-like. Chill haze is acceptable at low serving temperatures. Often bottle conditioned a slight yeast haze and flavor may be evident. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.060-1.075 (14.7-18.2 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)**

1.012-1.016 (3-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-6.0% (6.25-7.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 16-36 (32-72 EBC)

B. Belgian-Style Quadrupel

Quadrupels or “Quads” are characterized by the immense presence of alcohol and balanced flavor, bitterness and aromas. Its color is deep amber to rich chestnut/garnet brown. Often characterized by a mousse-like dense, sometimes amber head will top off a properly poured and served quad. Complex fruity aroma and flavor emerge reminiscent of raisins, dates, figs, grapes, plums often accompanied with a hint of winy character. Caramel, dark sugar and malty sweet flavors and aromas can be intense, not cloying, while complementing fruitiness. Though well attenuated it usually has a full, creamy body. Hop characters do not dominate; low to low-medium bitterness is perceived. Perception of alcohol can be extreme. Clove-like phenolic flavor and aroma should not be evident. Chill haze is acceptable at low serving temperatures. Diacetyl and DMS should not be perceived. Well balanced with savoring/sipping drinkability. Oxidative character if evident in aged Quads should be mild and pleasant.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.084-1.120 (20.2-28 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.020 (3.5-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 7.2-11.2% (9-14%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-50 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-20 (16-40 EBC)

C. Belgian-Style Dark Strong Ale

Belgian dark strong ales are amber to dark brown in color. Often, though not always, brewed with dark Belgian “candy” sugar, these beers can be well attenuated, ranging from medium to full-bodied. The perception of hop bitterness is low to medium, with hop flavor and aroma also in this range. Fruity complexity along with the soft flavors of roasted malts add distinct character. The alcohol strength of these beers can often be deceiving to the senses. The intensity of malt character can be rich, creamy, and sweet with intensities ranging from medium to high. Very little or no diacetyl is perceived. Herbs and spices are sometimes used to delicately flavor these strong ales. Low levels of phenolic spiciness from yeast byproducts may also be perceived. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.064-1.096 (16-23 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.024 (3-6 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.6-8.8% (7.0-11.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-50 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 9-35 (18-70 EBC)

DIVISION 59: BELGIAN-STYLE PALE STRONG ALE

A. Belgian-Style Pale Strong Blonde Ale

Color: Straw to light amber **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Malt character is low to medium. A complex fruitiness is often present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Medium-low to medium-high **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-low to medium-high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Low to medium fruity esters are present. Yeast-derived phenolic spicy flavors and aromas should be present at low to medium-low levels. Diacetyl is usually absent in these beers but may be present at very low levels. **Body:** Very low to medium **Additional notes:** These beers are often brewed with light-colored Belgian candy sugar. Herbs and spices are sometimes used to delicately flavor these strong ales. These beers can be malty in overall impression or dry and highly attenuated. They can have a deceptively high alcohol character and a relatively light body for beers of high alcoholic strength. Some versions may be equally high in alcohol with a more medium in body. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.064-1.096 (15.7-22.9 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.024 (2-6.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.60%-8.80% (7.10%-11.20%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-50 **Color SRM (EBC)** 2-7(4-14 EBC)

B. Belgian-Style Tripel

Tripels are often characterized by a complex, sometimes mild spicy character. Clove-like phenolic flavor and aroma may be evident at extremely low levels. Yeast-generated fruitiness, including banana esters, are also common, but not necessary. These pale/light-colored ales may finish sweet, though any sweet finish should be light. The beer is characteristically medium and clean in body with an equalizing hop/malt balance and a perception of medium to medium high hop bitterness. Traditional Belgian Tripels are often well attenuated. Brewing sugar may be used to lighten the perception of body. Its sweetness will come from very pale malts. There should not be character from any roasted or dark malts. Low hop flavor is acceptable. Alcohol strength and flavor should be perceived as evident. Head retention is dense and mousse-like. Chill haze is acceptable at low serving temperatures.

Traditional Tripels are bottle conditioned, may exhibit slight yeast haze but the yeast should not be intentionally roused. Oxidative character if evident in aged Tripels should be mild and pleasant. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.070-1.092 (17-22 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.018 (2.5-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.6-8.0% (7.0-10.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-45 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 4-9 (8-18 EBC)

DIVISION 60: PORTER

A. Brown Porter

Brown porters are mid to dark brown (may have red tint) in color. No roast barley or strong burnt/black malt character should be perceived. Low to medium malt sweetness, caramel and chocolate is acceptable along with medium hop bitterness. This is a light to medium-bodied beer. Fruity esters are acceptable. Hop flavor and aroma may vary from being negligible to medium in character. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.040-1.050 (10-12.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.006-1.014 (1.5-3.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.7% (4.5-6.0%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-30 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20-35 (40-70 EBC)

B. Robust Porter

Robust porters are black in color and have a roast malt flavor, often reminiscent of cocoa, but no roast barley flavor. These porters have a sharp bitterness of black malt without a highly burnt/charcoal flavor. Caramel and other malt sweetness should be present and in harmony with other distinguishing porter characters. Robust porters range from medium to full in body and have a malty sweetness. Hop bitterness is medium to high, with hop aroma and flavor ranging from negligible to medium. Diacetyl is acceptable at very low levels. Fruity esters should be evident, balanced with roast malt and hop bitterness. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.060 (11-14.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.016 (2-4 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.0-5.2% (5.0-6.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 30+ (60+ EBC)

C. Baltic-Style Porter

A true smooth cold-fermented and cold lagered beer, brewed with lager yeast. Black to very deep ruby/garnet in color. Overall, Baltic Porters have a very smooth lagered character with distinctive caramelized sugars, licorice and chocolate-like character of roasted malts and dark sugars. Roasted dark malts should not contribute bitterness, or astringent roast character. A low degree of smokiness from malt may be evident. Debitterized roast malts are best used for this style. Because of its alcoholic strength, aroma may include gentle (low) lager fruitiness (berries, grapes, plums, not banana; ale-like fruitiness from warm temperature fermentation is not appropriate), complex alcohols, cocoa-like, roast malt (and sometimes coffee-like roast barley, yet not bitter). Hop aroma is very low, though a hint of floral or sweet hop aroma can complement aromatics and flavor without dominance. Baltic

Porters are not hop bitter dominated and expressed as low to medium-low. Baltic porters range from having medium to full body complemented with a medium-low to medium level of malty sweetness. No butterscotch-like diacetyl or sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) should be apparent in aroma or flavor. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.072-1.085 (17.5-20.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.016-1.022 (4-5.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6-7.2% (7.5-9%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 35-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

D. American-Style Imperial Porter

Imperial porters are very dark brown to black in color. No roast barley or strong burnt/astringent black malt character should be perceived. Medium malt, caramel and cocoa-like sweetness should be in harmony with medium-low to medium hop bitterness. This is a full bodied beer. Ale-like fruity esters should be evident but not overpowering and compliment malt derived sweetness and hop character. Hop flavor and aroma may vary from being low to medium-high. Diacetyl (butterscotch) levels should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.080-1.100 (19.5-23 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.020-1.030 (4-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-9.5% (7-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 35-50 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

DIVISION 61: SPECIALTY STOUT

A. Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout

Dry stouts have an initial malt and light caramel flavor profile with a distinctive dry-roasted bitterness in the finish. Dry stouts achieve a dry-roasted character through the use of roasted barley. The emphasis of coffee-like roasted barley and a moderate degree of roasted malt aromas define much of the character. Some slight acidity may be perceived but is not necessary. European hop aroma and flavor should be low or not perceived. Dry stouts have medium-light to medium body. Fruity esters are minimal and overshadowed by malt, high hop bitterness, and roasted barley character. Diacetyl (butterscotch) should be very low or not perceived. Head retention and rich character should be part of its visual character. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.038-1.048 (9.5-12 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.012

(2-3 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.2-4.2% (3.8-5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

B. Sweet Stout or Cream Stout

Color: Black **Clarity:** Opaque **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Medium to medium-high. Malt sweetness, chocolate and caramel should contribute to the aroma and should dominate the flavor profile. Roast flavor may be present. Low to medium-low roasted malt-derived bitterness should be present. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Should not be present **Perceived Bitterness:** Low to medium-low and serves to balance and suppress some of the sweetness without contributing apparent flavor and aroma **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters, if present, are low. Diacetyl should not be present. **Body:** Full-bodied. Body can be increased with the addition of milk sugar (lactose). **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.045-1.056 (11.2-13.8 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.02 (3.1-5.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 2.50%-5.00% (3.20%-6.30%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 15-25 **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+(80+ EBC)

C. Oatmeal Stout

Oatmeal stouts include oatmeal in their grist, resulting in a pleasant, full flavor and a smooth profile that is rich without being grainy. A roasted malt character which is caramel-like and chocolate-like should be evident — smooth and not bitter. Coffee-like roasted barley and roasted malt aromas (chocolate and nut-like) are prominent. Color is dark brown to black. Bitterness is moderate, not high. Hop flavor and aroma are optional but should not overpower the overall balance if present. This is a medium- to full bodied beer, with minimal fruity esters. Diacetyl should be absent or at extremely low levels. Original gravity range and alcohol levels are indicative of English tradition of oatmeal stout. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.038-1.056 (9.5-14 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.020 (2-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.0-4.8% (3.8-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20+ (40+ EBC)

DIVISION 62: BOLD STOUT

A. Foreign (Export) Style Stout

As with classic dry stouts, foreign-style stouts have an initial malt sweetness and caramel flavor with a distinctive dry-roasted bitterness in the finish. Coffee-like roasted barley and roasted malt aromas are prominent. Some slight acidity is permissible and a medium- to full-bodied mouthfeel is appropriate. Bitterness may be high but the perception is often compromised by malt sweetness. Hop aroma and flavor should not be perceived. The perception of fruity esters is low. Diacetyl (butterscotch) should be negligible or not perceived. Head retention is excellent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.052-1.072 (13-17.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.008-1.020 (2-5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.5-7.5% (5.7-9.3%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-60 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

B. American-Style Stout

Initial low to medium malt sweetness with a degree of caramel, chocolate and/or roasted coffee flavor with a distinctive dry roasted bitterness in the finish. Coffee-like roasted barley and roasted malt aromas are prominent. Some slight roasted malt acidity is permissible and a medium- to full-bodied mouthfeel is appropriate. Hop bitterness may be moderate to high. Hop aroma and flavor is moderate to high, often with American citrus-type and/or resinous hop character. The perception of fruity esters is low. Roasted malt/barley astringency may be low but not excessive. Diacetyl (butterscotch) should be negligible or not perceived. Head retention is excellent.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.050-1.075 (12.4-18.2°Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.010-1.022 (2.5-5.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 4.5-7% (5.7-8.8%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 35-60 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

DIVISION 63: DESSERT STOUT

A. Any Dessert Stout

Color: Very dark to black **Clarity:** Opaque **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Extremely rich malty aroma and flavor is typical. Coffee, caramel, roasted malt, or chocolate aromas and flavors may be evident. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** If present, very low **Perceived Bitterness:** Not present to low **Fermentation Characteristics:** High alcohol content is evident. Fruity esters may be present at low levels. Diacetyl, if present, should be at low levels. **Body:** Full **Additional notes:** Beers in this category build on a strong dark beer base and incorporate culinary ingredients to create rich, sweet flavor profiles mimicking the character of desserts, pastries or candies. Examples of culinary ingredients used in these beers include, but are not limited to, chocolate, coffee, coconut, vanilla, maple syrup, peanut butter and marshmallow as well as fruits, nuts and spices. The addition of sugars from any source may contribute to the pronounced

sweetness of these beers. *While this category may overlap several other styles defined in these guidelines such as Chocolate or Cocoa Beers, Coffee Beers, Field beers, and others, the combination of a dark beer base, elevated alcohol content and rich, sweet, dessert-like flavor profiles sets this style apart as a unique entity..* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.08-1.120+ (19.3-28+ °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.02-1.060+ (5.1-15+ °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.50%-10.25%+ (7%-13%+) **Bitterness (IBU)** 20-65 **Color SRM (EBC)** 35+0

DIVISION 64: IMPERIAL STOUT

A. English-Style Imperial Stout

Dark copper to very dark brown, British-style imperial stouts typically have high alcohol content. The extremely rich malty flavor (often characterized as toffee-like or caramel-like) and aroma are balanced with medium hopping and high fruity-ester characteristics. Bitterness should be moderate & balanced with sweet malt character. The bitterness may be higher darker versions. Roasted malt astringency is very low or absent. Bitterness should not overwhelm the overall character. Aroma can be subtle to moderately hop-floral,-citrus or -herbal. Diacetyl (butterscotch) levels should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.080-1.100 (19.5-23 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.020-1.030 (4-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-9.5% (7-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 45-65 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 20-40+ (40-80+ EBC)

B. American-Style Imperial Stout

Black in color. American-style imperial stouts typically have a high alcohol content. Generally characterized as very robust. The extremely rich malty flavor and aroma are balanced with assertive hopping and fruity-ester characteristics. Bitterness should be moderately high to very high and balanced with full sweet malt character. Roasted malt astringency and bitterness can be moderately perceived but should not overwhelm the overall character. Hop aroma is usually moderately-high to overwhelmingly hop-floral, -citrus or -herbal. Diacetyl (butterscotch) levels should be absent. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.080-1.100 (19.5-23 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.020-1.030 (4-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-9.5% (7-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 50-80 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 40+ (80+ EBC)

DIVISION 65: BRITISH-STYLE STRONG ALE

A. Old Ale

Dark amber to brown in color, old ales are medium to full bodied with a malty sweetness. Hop aroma should be minimal and flavor can vary from none to medium in character intensity. Fruity-ester flavors and aromas can contribute to the character of this ale. Bitterness should be minimal but evident and balanced with malt and/or caramel-like sweetness. Alcohol types can be varied and complex. A distinctive quality of these ales is that they undergo an aging process (often for years) on their yeast either in bulk storage or through conditioning in the bottle, which contributes to a rich, wine-like and often sweet oxidation character. Complex estery characters may also emerge. Some very low diacetyl character may be evident and acceptable. Wood aged characters such as vanillin and other woody characters are acceptable. Horsey, goaty, leathery and phenolic character evolved from *Brettanomyces* organisms and acidity may be present but should be at low levels and balanced with other flavors Residual flavors that come from liquids previously aged in a barrel such as bourbon or sherry should not be present. Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. *(This style may often be split into two categories, strong and very strong. Brettanomyces organisms and acidic characters reflect historical character. Competition organizers may choose to distinguish these types of old ale from modern versions.)* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.058-1.088 (14.3-21 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.030 (3.5-7.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5-7.2% (6-9%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-65 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 12-30 (24-60 EBC)

B. Strong Ale

Light amber to mid-range brown in color, strong ales are medium to full bodied with a malty sweetness and may have low levels of roast malt character. Hop aroma should be minimal and flavor can vary from none to medium in character intensity. Fruity-ester flavors and aromas can contribute to the character of this ale. Bitterness should be minimal but evident and balanced with malt and/or caramel-like sweetness. Alcohol types can be varied and complex. A rich, often sweet and complex estery character may be evident. Very low levels of diacetyl are acceptable. Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. *(This style may often be split into two categories, strong and very strong.)* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.060-1.125 (15-31.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.014-1.040 (3.5-10 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.5-8.9% (7-11%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30-65 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-21 (16-42 EBC)

C. Peated Scotch Ale

Color: Light reddish-brown to very dark **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Scotch Ales are aggressively malty with a rich and dominant sweet malt aroma and flavor. A caramel character is

often part of the profile. Dark roasted malt flavors may be evident at low levels. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Not present to very low **Perceived Bitterness:** Not present to very low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters, if present, are generally at low levels. Diacetyl is usually absent in these beers but may be present at low levels. **Body:** Full **Additional notes:** Pleasant, low level oxidation is acceptable in Scotch Ales. Examples exhibiting prevalent oxidation are categorized as Aged Beer. *Within the framework of these competition guidelines, entries in this subcategory will exhibit low to medium peaty/smoky character. Versions exhibiting higher levels of smoke character are categorized as Smoke Beer. Entries exhibiting no peat smoke attributes are categorized as Unpeated Scotch Ale.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.072-1.085 (17.5-20.4 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.016-1.028 (4.1-7.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.20%-6.70% (6.60%-8.50%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-35 **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-30(30-60 EBC)

D. Unpeated Scotch Ale

Color: Light reddish-brown to very dark **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Scotch Ales are aggressively malty with a rich and dominant sweet malt aroma and flavor. A caramel character is often part of the profile. Dark roasted malt flavors may be present at low levels. **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** Not present to very low **Perceived Bitterness:** Not present to very low **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters, if present, are generally at low levels. Diacetyl is usually absent in these beers but may be present at low levels. **Body:** Full **Additional notes:** Pleasant, low-level oxidation is acceptable in Scotch Ales. Examples exhibiting more prevalent oxidation are categorized as Aged Beer. *Within the framework of these competition guidelines, entries in this subcategory will not exhibit peaty/smoky character. Entries exhibiting low to medium level peat smoke attributes are categorized as Peated Scotch Ale.* **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.072-1.085 (17.5-20.4 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.016-1.028 (4.1-7.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.20%-6.70% (6.60%-8.50%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 25-35 **Color SRM (EBC)** 15-30(30-60 EBC)

DIVISION 66- BARLEY WINE

A. English-Style Barley Wine

British-style barley wines range from tawny copper to dark brown in color and have a full body and high residual malty sweetness. Complexity of alcohols and fruity-ester characters are often high and counterbalanced by the perception of low to medium bitterness and extraordinary alcohol content. Hop aroma and flavor may be minimal to medium. English type hops are often used but not necessary for this style. Low levels of diacetyl may be acceptable. Caramel and some characters indicating oxidation, such as vinous (sometimes sherry-like) aromas and/or flavors, may be considered positive. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.085-1.120 (20.4-28 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.024-1.028 (6-7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.7-9.6% (8.4-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 40-60 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 14-22 (28-44 EBC)

B. American-Style Barley Wine

American style barley wines range from amber to deep copper-garnet in color and have a full body and high residual malty sweetness. Complexity of alcohols and fruity-ester characters are often high and counterbalanced by assertive bitterness and extraordinary alcohol content. Hop aroma and flavor are at medium to very high levels. American type hops are often used but not necessary for this style. Very low levels of diacetyl may be acceptable. A caramel and/or toffee aroma and flavor are often part of the character. Characters indicating oxidation, such as vinous (sometimes sherry-like) aromas and/or flavors, are not generally acceptable in American-style Barley Wine Ale, but if a low level of age-induced oxidation character harmonizes & enhances the overall experience this can be regarded favorably. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.090-1.120 (21.6-28 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.024-1.028 (6-7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.7-9.6% (8.4-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 60-100 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 11-22 (22-44 EBC)

C. American-Style Wheat Wine

American style wheat wines range from gold to deep amber and are brewed with 50% or more wheat malt. They have full body and high residual malty sweetness. Perception of bitterness is moderate to medium-high. Fruity-ester characters are often high and counterbalanced by complexity of alcohols and high alcohol content. Hop aroma and flavor are at low to medium levels. Very low levels of diacetyl may be acceptable. Bready, wheat, honey-like and/or caramel aroma and flavor are often part of the character. Phenolic yeast character, sulfur, and/or sweet corn-like dimethylsulfide (DMS) should not be present. Oxidized, stale and aged characters are not typical of this style. Chill haze is allowable. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.088-1.120 (21-28 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.024-1.032 (6-8 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.7-9.6% (8.4-12%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 45-85 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 8-15 (16-30 EBC)

DIVISION 67: NEW ZEALAND IPA

A. Any New Zealand IPA

Color: Gold to copper **Clarity:** Chill haze is acceptable at low temperatures. Hop haze is allowable at any temperature. **Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor:** Low to medium intensity malt attributes are present in aroma and flavor **Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor:** High to intense, exhibiting attributes such as floral, fruity (tropical, stone fruit, and other), sulfur/diesel-like, citrusy, and grassy **Perceived Bitterness:** Medium-high to very high **Fermentation Characteristics:** Fruity esters are low to high, acceptable but not essential. **Body:** Medium-low to medium with a dry finish. **Additional notes:** Diacetyl and DMS should not be present. The use of water with high mineral content may result in a crisp, dry beer rather than a malt-accentuated version. Hop attributes are dominant and balanced with malt character. **Original Gravity (°Plato)** 1.06-1.07 (14.7-17.1 °Plato) **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.01-1.016 (2.5-4.1 °Plato) **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 5.00%-6.00% (6.30%-7.50%) **Bitterness (IBU)** 50-70 **Color SRM (EBC)** 6-12 (12-24 EBC)

MEAD AND CIDER CATEGORIES

Standard Mead definitions for all categories

1. Important Attributes

- **Sweetness.** A mead may be *dry*, *semi-sweet*, or *sweet*. Sweetness simply refers to the amount of residual sugar in the mead. Sweetness is often confused with fruitiness in a dry mead. Body is related to sweetness, but dry meads can still have some body. Dry meads do not have to be bone dry. Sweet meads should not be cloyingly sweet, and should not have a raw, unfermented honey character. Sweetness is independent of strength. Note that tannin levels can affect the perceived sweetness of mead (more tannin makes a mead seem drier), but acidity is more related to the quality, balance, and enjoyment of the sweetness. The purpose of identifying a sweetness level is primarily to aid in the ordering of a flight. *Minor differences from stated sweetness level should not be heavily-penalized or considered a disqualifying fault.*
- **Carbonation.** A mead may be *still*, *petillant*, or *sparkling*. Still meads do not have to be totally flat; they can have some very light bubbles. Petillant meads are lightly sparkling and can have a moderate, noticeable amount of carbonation. Sparkling meads are not gushing, but may have a character ranging from mouth-filling to an impression akin to Champagne or carbonated water. *Minor differences from stated carbonation level should not be heavily-penalized or considered a disqualifying fault.*
- **Strength.** A mead may be categorized as *hydromel*, *standard*, or *sack* strength. Strength refers to the alcohol content of the mead (and also, therefore, the amount of honey and fermentables used to make the mead). Stronger meads can have a greater honey character and body (as well as alcohol) than weaker meads, although this is not a strict rule. Well-made stronger examples may have difficult-to-detect strength. *Minor differences from stated strength level should not be heavily-penalized or considered a disqualifying fault.*
- **Honey variety.** Some types of honey have a strong varietal character (aroma, flavor, color, acidity). If a honey is unusual, additional information can be provided to judges as to the character to be expected. Note that *wildflower* isn't a varietal honey; it is specifically a term used to describe a honey derived from an unknown source or from mixed flowers or blossoms. Consider providing a description of the honey if it is not listed in the Mead Exam Study Guide or other BJCP references. Identifying the source (state or region) and season of the honey can be useful information for the judges.
- **Special ingredients.** Different styles may include fruit, spice, malt, etc. Judges need to understand the ingredients that provide a unique character in order to properly evaluate the mead. Oak additions do not have to be specified (but may be at the entrant's discretion); *oaking is acceptable in every mead style*. Excessive oaking is a fault, just as in wine; any use of oak should be balanced and complimentary. A declared use of oak should not be interpreted as requiring the oak to be a primary flavor.

2. Standard Description for Mead

*When individual mead style descriptions use the phrase **Standard Description Applies**, refer to the sections below that have the same names as are used in the style descriptions. These descriptions are incorporated by reference into every style where they are mentioned. Statements in the individual style descriptions build on, modify, or supersede the standard descriptions below:*

- **Appearance:** Clarity may be good to brilliant. Crystal clear, reflective examples with a bright, distinct meniscus are highly desirable. Observable particulates (even in an otherwise clear example) are undesirable. Highly carbonated examples usually have a short-lasting head similar to Champagne or soda pop. Some aspects of bubbles or head formation that may be observed and commented upon include size (large or small), persistence (how long do they continue to form?), quantity (how much are present?), rate (how fast do they form?), and mousse (appearance or quality of foam stand). The components of bubbles (or *head*) will vary greatly depending on the carbonation level, ingredients and type of mead. In general, smaller bubbles are more desirable and indicative of higher quality than larger bubbles. The color may vary widely depending on honey variety and any optional ingredients (e.g., fruit, malts). Some honey varieties are almost clear, while others can be dark brown. Most are in the straw to gold range. If no honey variety is declared, almost any color is acceptable. If a honey variety is declared, the color should generally be suggestive of the honey used (although a wide range of color variation is still possible). Hue, saturation and purity of color should be considered. Stronger versions (standard and sack) may show signs of body (e.g., legs, meniscus) but higher carbonation levels can interfere with this perception.
- **Aroma:** The intensity of the honey aroma will vary based upon the sweetness and strength of the mead. Stronger or sweeter meads may have a stronger honey aroma than drier or weaker versions. Different varieties of honey have different intensities and characters; some (e.g., orange blossom, buckwheat) are more readily recognizable than others (e.g., avocado, palmetto). If honey varieties are declared, the varietal character of the honey should be apparent even if subtle. The aromatics may seem vinous (similar to wine), and may include fruity, floral, or spicy notes. The bouquet (rich, complex aromatics arising from the combination of ingredients, fermentation and aging) should show a pleasant, clean fermentation character, with fresh aromatics being preferred over dirty, muddled, yeasty, or sulfury notes. A multi-faceted bouquet, also known as complexity or depth, is a positive attribute. Phenolic aromatics should not be present. Harsh or chemical aromatics should not be present. Oxidation is a big detraction in most mead, and most frequently appears as a strong sherry-like or light molasses-like character. A subtle, sherry-like oxidation character can add complexity in some situations, but not if the oxidation ruins the character of the mead. Alcohol aromatics may be present, but hot, solventy or irritating overtones are a defect. The harmony and balance of the aroma and bouquet should be pleasant and enticing.
- **Flavor:** The intensity of the honey flavor will vary based upon the sweetness and strength of the mead. Stronger, sweeter meads will have a stronger honey flavor than drier, weaker versions. Different varieties of honey have different intensities and characters; some (e.g., orange blossom, buckwheat) are more readily recognizable than others (e.g., safflower, palmetto). If honey varieties are declared, the varietal character of the honey should be apparent even if subtle. The residual sweetness level will vary with the sweetness of the mead; dry meads will have no residual sugar, sweet meads will have noticeable to prominent sweetness, semi-sweet meads will have a balanced sweetness. In no case should the residual sweetness be syrupy, cloying or seem like unfermented honey. Any additives, such as acid or tannin, should enhance the honey flavor and lend balance to the overall character of the mead but not be excessively tart or astringent. Tannin can make a mead seem drier than the residual sugar levels might suggest. Artificial, chemical, harsh, phenolic or bitter flavors are defects. Higher carbonation (if present) enhances the acidity and gives a “bite” to the finish. The aftertaste should be evaluated; longer finishes are generally most desirable. A multi-faceted flavor, also known as complexity or depth, is a positive attribute. Yeast or fermentation characteristics may be none to noticeable, with estery, fresh and clean flavors being most desirable. Alcohol flavors (if present) should be smooth and well-aged, not harsh, hot, or solventy. Very light oxidation may be present, depending on age, but an excessive molasses, sherry-like or papery character should be avoided. Aging and conditioning generally smooth out flavors and create a more elegant, blended, rounded product. All flavors tend to become subtle over time and can deteriorate with aging.
- **Mouthfeel:** Before evaluating, refer to the declared sweetness, strength and carbonation levels, as well as any special ingredients; these can all affect mouthfeel. Well-made examples will often have an elegant wine-like character. The body can vary widely, although most are in the medium-light to medium-full range. Body generally increases with stronger and/or sweeter meads, and can sometimes be quite full and heavy. Similarly, body generally decreases with lower gravity and/or drier meads, and can sometimes be quite light. Sensations of body should not be accompanied by an overwhelmingly cloying sweetness (even in sweet meads). A very thin or watery body is likewise undesirable. Some natural acidity is often present (particularly in fruit-based meads). Low levels of astringency are sometimes present (either from specific fruit or spices, or from tea, chemical additives or oak-aging). Acidity and tannin help balance the overall honey, sweetness and alcohol presentation. The level of carbonation can vary widely (see definitions above). Still meads may have a very light level of carbonation, lightly carbonated (petillant) meads will have noticeable bubbles, and a highly carbonated (sparkling) mead can range from a mouth-filling carbonation to levels approaching Champagne or soda pop. High carbonation will enhance

the acidity and give a “bite” to the finish. A warming alcohol presence is often present, and this character usually increases with strength (although extended aging can smooth this sensation).

- **Overall Impression:** A wide range of results are possible, but well-made examples will have an enjoyable balance of honey flavors, sweetness, acidity, tannins, alcohol. Strength, sweetness and age greatly affect the overall presentation. Any special ingredients should be well-blended with the other ingredients, and lead to a harmonious end product.
- **Ingredients:** Mead is made primarily from honey, water and yeast. Some minor adjustments in acidity and tannin can be made with citrus fruits, tea, or chemicals; however, these additives should not be readily discernable in flavor or aroma. Yeast nutrients may be used but should not be detected. Oak aging is allowable in any category as a subtle to noticeable enhancement without causing it to be an *Experimental Mead*; excessive is a fault.
- **Vital Statistics:**

OG	ABV	FG
hydromel: 1.035 – 1.080	hydromel: 3.5 – 7.5%	dry: 0.990 – 1.010
standard: 1.080 – 1.120	standard: 7.5 – 14.0%	semi-sweet: 1.010 – 1.025
sack: 1.120 – 1.170	sack: 14.0 – 18.0%	sweet: 1.025 – 1.050

Note: the perception of sweetness is a function of the percentage of residual sugar, so don't rely only on FG to determine sweetness. Consider OG, strength, tannin levels, and to a lesser extent, acidity, in your assessment.

IBUs: not relevant for anything but braggot, but bittering hops are optional even in this style.

SRM: basically irrelevant since honey can be anything from almost clear to dark brown. Cysers are most often golden. Other fruit-based meads and piments can have orange, red, pink and/or purple hues. Braggots can be yellow to black. In all cases, the color should reflect the ingredients used (type of honey, and fruit and/or malt in some styles).

DIVISION 68: TRADITIONAL MEAD

A. Dry Mead

Overall Impression: Similar in balance, body, finish and flavor intensity to a dry white wine, with a pleasant mixture of subtle honey character, soft fruity esters, and clean alcohol. Complexity, harmony, and balance of sensory elements are most desirable, with no inconsistencies in color, aroma, flavor or aftertaste. The proper balance of sweetness, acidity, alcohol, and honey character is the essential final measure of any mead. **Aroma:** Honey aroma may be subtle, although not always identifiable. Sweetness or significant honey aromatics should not be expected. If a honey variety is declared, the variety should be distinctive (if noticeable). Different types of honey have different intensities and characters. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies. **Flavor:** Subtle (if any) honey character, and may feature subtle to noticeable varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Residual sweetness levels are minimal to none. Dry finish. May have more noticeable acidity due to low sweetness levels. Tannin levels may make a sweeter mead seem dry. Sulfury, harsh or yeasty fermentation characteristics are undesirable. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies, although the body is generally medium to light (but not watery). Note that stronger meads can have a fuller body. Sensations of body should not be accompanied by noticeable residual sweetness. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. Traditional Meads feature the character of a blended honey or a blend of honeys. Varietal meads feature the distinctive character of certain honeys. *Show meads* feature no additives, but this distinction is usually not obvious to judges. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level and strength. Sweetness is assumed to be DRY in this category. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties.

B. Semi-Sweet Mead

Overall Impression: Similar in balance, body, finish and flavor intensity to a semi-sweet (or medium-dry) white wine, with a pleasant mixture of honey character, light sweetness, soft fruity esters, and clean alcohol. Complexity, harmony, and balance of sensory elements are most desirable, with no inconsistencies in color, aroma, flavor or aftertaste. The proper balance of sweetness, acidity, alcohol, and honey character is the essential final measure of any mead. **Aroma:** Honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies. **Flavor:** Subtle to moderate honey character, and may feature subtle to noticeable varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Residual

sweetness levels are subtle to moderate. Medium-dry to lightly sweet finish. Tannin levels may make a sweet mead seem medium-dry. Sulfury, harsh or yeasty fermentation characteristics are undesirable. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies, although the body is generally medium-light to medium-full. Note that stronger meads can have a fuller body. Sensations of body should not be accompanied by a residual sweetness that is higher than moderate. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. Traditional Meads feature the character of a blended honey or a blend of honeys. Varietal meads feature the distinctive character of certain honeys. *Show meads* feature no additives, but this distinction is usually not obvious to judges. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level and strength. Sweetness is assumed to be SEMI-SWEET in this category. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties.

C. Sweet Mead

Overall Impression: Similar in balance, body, finish and flavor intensity to a well-made dessert wine (such as Sauternes), with a pleasant mixture of honey character, residual sweetness, soft fruity esters, and clean alcohol. Complexity, harmony, and balance of sensory elements are most desirable, with no inconsistencies in color, aroma, flavor or aftertaste. The proper balance of sweetness, acidity, alcohol, and honey character is the essential final measure of any mead. **Aroma:** Honey aroma should dominate, and is often moderately to strongly sweet and usually expresses the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies. **Flavor:** Moderate to significant honey character, and may feature moderate to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Residual sweetness levels are moderate to high. Sweet and full (but not cloying) finish. Balanced acidity and/or tannin helps keep the sweetness agreeable to the palate without being overwhelming. Sulfury, harsh or yeasty fermentation characteristics are undesirable. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies, although the body is generally medium-full to full. Note that stronger meads will have a fuller body. Many examples will seem like a dessert wine. Sensations of body should not be accompanied by cloying, raw (unfermented) residual sweetness. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. Traditional Meads feature the character of a blended honey or a blend of honeys. Varietal meads feature the distinctive character of certain honeys. *Show meads* feature no additives, but this distinction is usually not obvious to judges. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level and strength. Sweetness is assumed to be SWEET in this category. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties.

DIVISION 69: FRUIT MEAD

A. Cyser (Apple Melomel)

A **Cyser** is a melomel made with apples (generally cider). **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the fruit is both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Some of the best strong examples have the taste and aroma of an aged Calvados (apple brandy from northern France), while subtle, dry versions can taste similar to many fine white wines. There should be an appealing blend of the fruit and honey character but not necessarily an even balance. Generally a good tannin-sweetness balance is desired, though very dry and very sweet examples do exist. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and apple/cider character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The apple/cider character should be clean and distinctive; it can express a range of apple-based character ranging from a subtle fruitiness to a single varietal apple character (if declared) to a complex blend of apple aromatics. Some spicy or earthy notes may be present, as may a slightly sulfury character. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Slight spicy phenolics from certain apple varieties are acceptable, as is a light diacetyl character from malolactic fermentation (both are optional). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except with regard to color. Color may range from pale straw to deep golden amber (most are yellow to gold), depending on the variety of honey and blend of apples or ciders used. **Flavor:** The apple and honey flavor intensity may vary from none to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (*hydromel to sack*). Natural acidity and tannin in apples may give some tartness and astringency to balance the sweetness, honey flavor and alcohol. Tannin levels may make a cyser seem drier than the residual sugar levels might suggest. A cyser may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character

if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Slight spicy phenolics from certain apple varieties are acceptable, as are a light diacetyl character from malolactic fermentation and a slight sulfur character (all are optional). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Often wine-like. Some natural acidity is usually present (from the blend of apples) and helps balance the overall impression. Some apples can provide natural astringency, but this character should not be excessive. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. Cyser is a mead made with the addition of apples or apple juice. Traditionally, cysers are made by the addition of honey to apple juice without additional water. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MAY** specify the varieties of apple used; if specified, a varietal character will be expected. Products with a relatively low proportion of honey are better entered as a Specialty Cider. A spiced cyser should be entered as a Fruit and Spice Mead. A cyser with other fruit should be entered as a Melomel. A cyser with additional ingredients should be entered as an *Experimental Mead*.

B. Pyment (Grape Melomel)

A **Pyment** is a melomel made with grapes (generally from juice). Pyments can be red, white, or blush, just as with wine. **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the grape is both distinctively vinous and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. White and red versions can be quite different, and the overall impression should be characteristic of the type of grapes used and suggestive of a similar variety wine. There should be an appealing blend of the fruit and honey character but not necessarily an even balance. Generally a good tannin-sweetness balance is desired, though very dry and very sweet examples do exist. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and grape/wine character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The grape/wine character should be clean and distinctive; it can express a range of grape-based character ranging from a subtle fruitiness to a single varietal grape character (if declared) to a complex blend of grape or wine aromatics. Some complex, spicy, grassy or earthy notes may be present (as in wine). The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Slight spicy phenolics from certain red grape varieties are acceptable, as is a light diacetyl character from malolactic fermentation in certain white grape varieties (both are optional). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except with regard to color. Color may range from pale straw to deep purple-red, depending on the variety of grapes and honey used. The color should be characteristic of the variety or type of grape used, although white grape varieties may also take on color derived from the honey variety. **Flavor:** The grape/wine and honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). Natural acidity and tannin in grapes may give some tartness and astringency to balance the sweetness, honey flavor and alcohol. A pyment may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Depending on the grape variety, some fruity, spicy, grassy, buttery, earthy, mineral, and/or floral flavors may be present. Some versions (particularly red pyments) may be oak-aged, with additional flavor complexity. Tannin levels may make the pyment seem drier than residual sugar levels might suggest. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Wine-like. Some natural acidity is usually present (from grapes) and helps balance the overall impression. Grape tannin and/or grape skins can add body as well as some astringency, although this character should not be excessive. Use of oak can also add this character. Longer aging can smooth out tannin-based astringency. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. A pyment is a mead made with the addition of grapes or grape juices. Alternatively, the pyment may be a homemade grape-based wine sweetened with honey, or a mead mixed with homemade grape-based wine after fermentation. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MAY** specify the varieties of grape used; if specified, a varietal character will be expected. A spiced pyment (hippocras) should be entered as a Fruit and Spice Mead. A pyment made with other fruit should be entered as a Melomel. A pyment with other ingredients should be entered as an *Experimental Mead*.

C. Berry Mead

A Berry Mead is an entry category for melomels made with berries, such as raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants (black, red, and white), strawberries, boysenberries, elderberries, marionberries, mulberries, lingonberries, huckleberries, cranberries, etc. Generally any fruit with 'berry' in the name would qualify. Berries can have seeds, but do not have stones/pits; some are aggregates of drupelets. Combinations of berries can be entered here. The culinary, not botanical, definition of berry is used here. If you have to justify a fruit using the word "technically" as part of the

description, then that's not what we mean. **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the fruit is both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Different types of fruit can result in widely different characteristics; allow for a variation in the final product. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and fruit character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The fruit character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular fruit(s); however, note that some fruit (e.g., raspberries) have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others (e.g., blueberries, strawberries) — allow for a range of fruit character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The fruit character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial, raw, and/or inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the fruit). In a blended berry mead, not all fruit may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Some tartness may be present if naturally occurring in the particular fruit(s), but should not be inappropriately intense. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except with regard to color. Color may take on a very wide range of colors, depending on the variety of fruit and/or honey used. For lighter-colored meads with fruits that exhibit distinctive colors, the color should be noticeable. Note that the color of fruit in mead is often lighter than the flesh of the fruit itself and may take on slightly different shades. Meads made with lighter color fruits can also take on color from varietal honeys. In meads that produce a head, the head can take on some of the fruit color as well. **Flavor:** The fruit and honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). The natural acidity and tannin levels from fruit and fruit skins will vary, and this character is expected to be present in the mead, although in balance with sweetness, honey flavor, and alcohol. Tannin levels may make some meads seem drier than the residual sweetness might suggest. A berry mead may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular fruit(s) should be noticeable, and may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive. The balance of fruit with the underlying mead is vital, and the fruit character should not be artificial, raw (unfermented), and/or inappropriately overpowering. In a blended berry mead, not all fruit may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Most will be wine-like. Some natural acidity and/or tannin are sometimes present (from certain fruit and/or fruit skin) and helps balance the overall impression. Fruit tannin can add body as well as some astringency. High levels of astringency are undesirable. The acidity and tannin levels should be somewhat reflective of the fruit used. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. A berry mead is a mead made with the addition of other berries or berry juices, including a blend of berries. There should be an appealing blend of the fruit and honey character but not necessarily an even balance. **Comments:** Generally a good tannin-sweetness balance is desired, though very dry and very sweet examples do exist. Some fruits, notably darker ones like blackberries, may contribute a tannin presence similar to a red wine. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the varieties of fruit used. A mead made with both berries and non-berry fruit (including apples and grapes) should be entered as a *Melomel*. A berry mead that is spiced should be entered as a *Fruit and Spice Mead*. A berry mead containing other ingredients should be entered as an *Experimental Mead*.

D. Stone Fruit Mead

A Stone Fruit Mead is an entry category for melomels made with stone fruit, such as cherries, plums, peaches, apricots, and mangoes. Stone fruit are fleshy fruit with a single large pit or stone. The culinary, not botanical, definition of stone fruit is used here. If you have to justify a fruit using the word “technically” as part of the description, then that's not what we mean. Combinations of stone fruit can be entered here. **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the fruit is both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Different types of fruit can result in widely different characteristics; allow for a variation in the final product. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and fruit character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The fruit character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular fruit(s); however, note that some fruit (e.g., cherries) have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others (e.g., peaches) — allow for a range of fruit character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The fruit character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial, raw and/or inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the fruit). In a blended stone fruit mead, not all the fruits may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant

fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Some tartness may be present if naturally occurring in the particular fruit(s), but should not be inappropriately intense. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except with regard to color. Color may take on a very wide range of colors, depending on the variety of fruit and/or honey used. For lighter-colored meads with fruits that exhibit distinctive colors, the color should be noticeable. Note that the color of fruit in mead is often lighter than the flesh of the fruit itself and may take on slightly different shades. Meads made with lighter color fruits can also take on color from varietal honeys. In meads that produce a head, the head can take on some of the fruit color as well. **Flavor:** The fruit and honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). The natural acidity and tannin levels from fruit and fruit skins will vary, and this character is expected to be present in the mead, although in balance with sweetness, honey flavor, and alcohol. Tannin levels may make some meads seem drier than the residual sweetness might suggest. A stone fruit mead may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular fruit(s) should be noticeable, and may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive. The balance of fruit with the underlying mead is vital, and the fruit character should not be artificial, raw (unfermented), and/or inappropriately overpowering. In a blended stone fruit mead, not all the fruits may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Most will be wine-like. Some natural acidity and/or tannin are sometimes present (from certain fruit and/or fruit skin) and helps balance the overall impression. Fruit tannin can add body as well as some astringency. High levels of astringency are undesirable. The acidity and tannin levels should be somewhat reflective of the fruit used. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. A stone fruit mead is a mead made with the addition of other stone fruit or stone fruit juices. There should be an appealing blend of the fruit and honey character but not necessarily an even balance. A stone fruit mead can be made with a blend of stone fruits, but not other fruit not allowable in this category. **Comments:** Generally a good tannin-sweetness balance is desired, though very dry and very sweet examples do exist. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the varieties of fruit used. A stone fruit mead that is spiced should be entered as a *Fruit and Spice Mead*. A stone fruit mead that contains non-stone fruit should be entered as a *Melomel*. A stone fruit mead that contains other ingredients should be entered as an *Experimental Mead*.

E. Other Fruit Melomel

The **melomel** subcategory is for fruit meads made with any fruit not associated with any other fruit mead subcategory, or with a combination of fruits from multiple fruit mead subcategories (such as grapes and stone fruit). Some examples include citrus fruit, dried fruits (dates, prunes, raisins, etc.), pears, figs, pomegranates, prickly pear, bananas, pineapples, and most other tropical fruit. If in doubt, enter the fruit here – judges should be flexible with fruit not explicitly named in other categories. The use of Melomel as a subcategory name does not imply that other meads in the Fruit Mead category are not also melomels; the choice was made to avoid using the same word twice in different contexts. The culinary, not botanical, definition of fruit is used here. If you have to justify a fruit using the word “technically” as part of the description, then that’s not what we mean. **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the fruit is both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Different types of fruit can result in widely different characteristics; allow for a variation in the final product. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and fruit character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The fruit character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular fruit(s); however, note that some fruit have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others — allow for a range of fruit character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The fruit character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial, raw (unfermented), and/or inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the fruit). In a blended fruit melomel, not all the fruits may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Some tartness may be present if naturally occurring in the particular fruit(s), but should not be inappropriately intense. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except with regard to color. Color may take on a very wide range of colors, depending on the variety of fruit and/or honey used. For lighter-colored melomels with fruits that exhibit distinctive colors, the color should be noticeable. Note that the color of fruit in mead is often lighter than the flesh of the fruit itself and may take on slightly different shades. Meads made with lighter color fruits can also take on color from varietal honeys. In meads that produce a head, the head can take on some of the fruit color as

well. **Flavor:** The fruit and honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). The natural acidity and tannin levels from fruit and fruit skins will vary, and this character is expected to be present in the mead, although in balance with sweetness, honey flavor, and alcohol. Tannin levels may make some meads seem drier than the residual sweetness might suggest. A melomel may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular fruit(s) should be noticeable, and may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive. The balance of fruit with the underlying mead is vital, and the fruit character should not be artificial, raw (unfermented), and/or inappropriately overpowering. In a melomel made with a combination of fruits, not all the fruits may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Most will be wine-like. Some natural acidity and/or tannin are sometimes present (from certain fruit and/or fruit skin) and helps balance the overall impression. Fruit tannin can add body as well as some astringency. High levels of astringency are undesirable. The acidity and tannin levels should be somewhat reflective of the fruit used. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. A melomel is a mead made with the addition of other fruit or fruit juices not specifically reserved for other entry subcategories. There should be an appealing blend of the fruit and honey character but not necessarily an even balance. A melomel can be made with a blend of fruits from multiple *Fruit Mead* subcategories. **Comments:** Generally a good tannin-sweetness balance is desired, though very dry and very sweet examples do exist. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the varieties of fruit used. A melomel that is spiced should be entered as a *Fruit and Spice Mead*. A melomel containing other ingredients should be entered as an *Experimental Mead*. Melomels made with either apples or grapes as the only fruit source should be entered as a *Cyser* or *Pymment*, respectively. Melomels with apples or grapes, plus other fruit should be entered in this category, not *Experimental Mead*.

DIVISION 70: SPICED & SPECIALTY MEAD

A. Fruit and Spice Mead

A Fruit and Spice Mead is a mead containing one or more fruits and one or more spices. See the definitions of fruit used in the various Fruit Mead subcategories; any ingredient qualifying there meets the “fruit” requirement here. For purposes of this subcategory, any ingredient qualifying for use in the Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Mead subcategory also meets the “spice” requirement here. **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the fruits and spices are both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Different types of fruits and spices can result in widely different characteristics; allow for significant variation in the final product. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey, fruit, and spice character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The spice character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular spices; however, note that some spices (e.g., ginger, cinnamon) have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others (e.g., chamomile, lavender) — allow for a range of spice character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The spice character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial and inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the spice). The fruit character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular fruit; however, note that some fruits (e.g., raspberry, cherry) have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others (e.g., peach) — allow for a range of fruit character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The fruit character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial, raw (unfermented) and/or inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the fruit). In a mead with more than one fruit and/or spice, not all fruits and spices may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Some spices may produce spicy or peppery phenolics. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except perhaps to note that the color usually won't be affected by spices (although flowers, petals and peppers may provide subtle colors; tea blends may provide significant colors). The fruit may provide significant color, and is generally evocative of the fruit used (although it may be of a lighter shade than the fruit skin). **Flavor:** The spice flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the fruit flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular spices may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive (although some spices may not be individually recognizable, and can just serve to add a background

complexity). Certain spices might add bitter, astringent, phenolic or spicy (hot) flavors; if present, these qualities should be related to the declared ingredients (otherwise, they are faults), and they should balance and blend with the honey, sweetness and alcohol. The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular fruits may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive (although some fruits may not be individually recognizable, and can just serve to add a background complexity). Certain fruits might add acidic, bitter, astringent or flavors; if present, these qualities should be related to the declared ingredients (otherwise, they are faults), and they should balance and blend with the honey, sweetness and alcohol. Meads containing more than one fruit or spice should have a pleasant balance of the different fruits and spices, but this does not mean that all fruits and spices need to be of equal intensity or even individual identifiable. The mead may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics.

Mouthfeel: Standard description applies. Some fruits and spices may contain tannins that add a bit of body and some astringency, but this character should not be excessive. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. See the various Fruit Mead descriptions, as well as the Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Mead description for additional details. **Comments:** Often, a blend of fruits and spices may give a character greater than the sum of its parts. The better examples of this style often use spices judiciously; when more than one spice are used, they are carefully selected so that they blend harmoniously with the fruit and with each other. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the types of spices used, (although well-known spice blends may be referred to by common name, such as apple pie spices). Entrants **MUST** specify the types of fruits used. If only combinations of spices are used, enter as a Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Mead. If only combinations of fruits are used, enter as a Melomel. If other types of ingredients are used, enter as an Experimental Mead.

B. Spice, Herb or Vegetable Mead

A Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Mead contains one or more spices, herbs, or vegetables (in this style definition, these are collectively known as “spices”). The culinary, not botanical, definition of spice, herb, or vegetable is used here. If you have to justify a spice, herb, or vegetable using the word “technically” as part of the description, then that’s not what we mean. The same definitions apply to this category as to the similarly-named beer category. In addition to the more obvious spices, herbs, and vegetables that fit into this subcategory, the following ingredients also are explicitly included: roses, rose hips, ginger, rhubarb, pumpkins, chile peppers, coffee, chocolate, nuts (including coconut), citrus peels/zest, and teas (except those strictly used for increasing tannin levels, not for adding flavor). **Overall Impression:** In well-made examples of the style, the spices are both distinctive and well-incorporated into the honey-sweet-acid-tannin-alcohol balance of the mead. Different types of spices can result in widely different characteristics; allow for a variation in the final product. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness and strength, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and spice character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The spice character should display distinctive aromatics associated with the particular spices; however, note that some spices (e.g., ginger, cinnamon) have stronger aromas and are more distinctive than others (e.g., chamomile, lavender) — allow for a range of spice character and intensity from subtle to aggressive. The spice character should be pleasant and supportive, not artificial and inappropriately overpowering (considering the character of the spice). In a blended spice mead, not all spices may be individually identifiable or of equal intensity. The honey aroma should be noticeable, and can have a light to significant sweetness that may express the aroma of flower nectar. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). The bouquet should show a pleasant fermentation character, with clean and fresh aromatics being preferred. Stronger and/or sweeter versions will have higher alcohol and sweetness in the nose. Some herbs and spices may produce spicy or peppery phenolics. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description applies, except perhaps to note that the color usually won’t be affected by spices and herbs (although flowers, petals and peppers may provide subtle colors; tea blends may provide significant colors). **Flavor:** The spice flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the honey flavor intensity may vary from subtle to high; the residual sweetness may vary from none to high; and the finish may range from dry to sweet, depending on what sweetness level has been declared (dry to sweet) and strength level has been declared (hydromel to sack). The distinctive flavor character associated with the particular spices may range in intensity from subtle to aggressive (although some spices may not be individually recognizable, and can just serve to add a background complexity). Certain herbs and spices might add bitter, astringent, phenolic or spicy (hot) flavors; if present, these qualities should be related to the declared ingredients (otherwise, they are faults), and they should balance and blend with the honey, sweetness and alcohol. Meads containing more than one spice should have a good balance among the different spices, though some spices will tend to dominate the flavor profile. The mead may have a subtle to strong honey character, and may feature noticeable to prominent varietal character if a varietal honey is declared (different varieties have different intensities). Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Mouthfeel:** Standard description applies. Some herbs or spices may contain tannins that add a bit of body and some astringency, but this character should not be excessive. Warming spices and hot

peppers/chiles might impart a warming or numbing impression, but this character should not be extreme or make the mead undrinkable. **Ingredients:** Standard description applies. If spices are used in conjunction with other ingredients such as fruit, cider, or other fruit-based fermentables, then the mead should be entered as a Fruit and Spice Mead. If spices are used in combination with other ingredients, then the mead should be entered as an Experimental Mead.

Comments: Often, a blend of spices may give a character greater than the sum of its parts. The better examples of this style use spices subtly; when more than one spice are used, they are carefully selected so that they blend harmoniously. A mead containing only culinary spices or herbs is known as a metheglin. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the types of spices used (although well-known spice blends may be referred to by common name, such as apple pie spices).

C. Braggot

A Braggot is a mead made with malt. **Overall Impression:** A harmonious blend of mead and beer, with the distinctive characteristics of both. A wide range of results are possible, depending on the base style of beer, variety of honey and overall sweetness and strength. Beer flavors tend to somewhat mask typical honey flavors found in other meads. **Aroma:** Depending on the sweetness, strength and base style of beer, a subtle to distinctly identifiable honey and beer character (dry and/or hydromel versions will tend to have lower aromatics than sweet and/or sack versions). The honey and beer/malt character should be complementary and balanced, although not always evenly balanced. If a variety of honey is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable varietal character reflective of the honey (different varieties have different intensities and characters). If a base style of beer or type of malt is declared, the aroma might have a subtle to very noticeable character reflective of the beer style (different styles and malts have different intensities and characters). A hop aroma (any variety or intensity) is optional; if present, it should blend harmoniously with the other elements. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics. **Appearance:** Standard description does not apply due to beer-like characteristics. Clarity may be good to brilliant, although many braggots are not as clear as other meads. A light to moderate head with some retention is expected if the mead is carbonated. Color may range from light straw to dark brown or black, depending on the variety of malt and honey used. The color should be characteristic of the declared beer style and/or honey used, if a variety is declared. Stronger versions may show signs of body (e.g., legs).

Flavor: Displays a balanced character identifiable as both a beer and a mead, although the relative intensity of flavors is greatly affected by the sweetness, strength, base style of beer, and variety of honey used. If a beer style is declared, the braggot should have some character traceable to the style although the flavors will be different due to the presence of honey. If a variety of honey is declared, the braggot should feature a subtle to prominent varietal character (different varieties have different intensities). Stronger and/or sweeter braggots should be expected to have a greater intensity of flavor than drier, lower gravity versions. The finish and aftertaste will vary based on the declared level of sweetness (dry to sweet), and may include both beer and mead components. A wide range of malt characteristics is allowable, from plain base malts to rich caramel and toast flavors to dark chocolate and roast flavors. Hop bitterness and flavor may be present, and may reflect any variety or intensity; however, this optional character should always be both suggestive of the base beer style and well blended with the other flavors. Standard description applies for remainder of characteristics.

Mouthfeel: Standard description does not apply due to beer-like characteristics. Smooth mouthfeel without astringency. Body may vary from moderately light to full, depending on sweetness, strength, and the base style of beer. Note that stronger meads will have a fuller body. A very thin or watery body is undesirable, as is a cloying, raw sweetness. A warming sense of well-aged alcohol may be present in stronger examples. Carbonation will vary as described in the standard description. A still braggot will usually have some level of carbonation (like a cask bitter) since a completely flat beer is unappetizing. However, just as an aged barleywine may be still, some braggots can be totally still. **Ingredients:** A braggot is a mead made with both honey and malt providing flavor and fermentable extract. Originally, and alternatively, a mixture of mead and ale. A braggot can be made with any type of honey, and any type of base beer style. The malt component may be derived from grain or malt extracts. The beer may be hopped or not. If any other ingredients than honey and beer are contained in the braggot, it should be entered as an Experimental Mead. Smoked braggots may be entered in this category if using smoked malt or a smoked beer as the base style; braggots made using other smoked ingredients (e.g., liquid smoke, chipotles) should be entered in the Experimental Mead style. **Comments:** Sometimes known as bracket or brackett. The fermentable sugars come from a balance of malt or malt extract and honey, although the specific balance is open to creative interpretation by brewers **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MAY** specify the base style or beer or types of malt used.

D. Historical, Experimental or Other Mead

A **Historical Mead** is a historical or indigenous mead that doesn't fit into another subcategory (e.g., Ethiopian tej, Polish meads). **Overall Impression:** This mead should exhibit the character of all of the ingredients in varying degrees, and should show a good blending or balance between the various flavor elements. Whatever ingredients are included, the result should be identifiable as a honey-based fermented beverage. **Aroma, appearance, flavor, mouthfeel** generally

follow the standard descriptions, yet note that all the characteristics may vary. Since a wide range of entries are possible, note that the characteristics may reflect combinations of the respective elements of the various sub-categories used in this style. Refer to Category M1 for a detailed description of the character of dry, semi-sweet and sweet mead. If the entered mead is a combination of other existing mead categories, refer to the constituent categories for a detailed description of the character of the component styles. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level, strength, and sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the special nature of the mead, providing a description of the mead for judges.

An **Experimental or Other Mead** is a mead that does not fit into any other mead subcategory. This could apply to meads that blend multiple mead subcategories (unless the combination fits elsewhere, such as Melomel or Fruit and Spice Mead). Any experimental mead using additional sources of fermentables (e.g., maple syrup, molasses, brown sugar, or agave nectar), additional ingredients (e.g., liquors, smoke, etc.), alternative processes (e.g., icing), fermentation with non-traditional yeasts (e.g., Brettanomyces, Belgian lambic or ale, etc.), or other unusual ingredient, process, or technique would also be appropriate in this category. Oak-aging does not necessarily force a mead into the Experimental Mead style unless the barrel has another characteristic (such as bourbon) in addition to the wood. No mead can be “out of style” for this category unless it fits into another existing mead category. **Overall Impression:** This mead should exhibit the character of all of the ingredients in varying degrees, and should show a good blending or balance between the various flavor elements. Whatever ingredients are included, the result should be identifiable as a honey-based fermented beverage. **Aroma, appearance, flavor, mouthfeel** generally follow the standard descriptions, yet note that all the characteristics may vary. Since a wide range of entries are possible, note that the characteristics may reflect combinations of the respective elements of the various sub-categories used in this style. Refer to Category M1 for a detailed description of the character of dry, semi-sweet and sweet mead. If the entered mead is a combination of other existing mead categories, refer to the constituent categories for a detailed description of the character of the component styles. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MAY** specify honey varieties. Entrants **MUST** specify the special nature of the mead, whether it is a combination of existing styles, an experimental mead, or some other creation. Any special ingredients that impart an identifiable character **MAY** be declared.

DIVISION 71: STANDARD CIDER & PARRY

A. New World Cider

A **New World Cider** is made from culinary/table apples, with wild or crab apples often used for acidity/tannin balance. Compared to other styles in this category, these ciders are generally relatively lower in tannin and higher in acidity. “New World” references the style, not a location, as ciders in this style are also made in eastern England, Australia, Germany, etc. **Overall Impression:** A refreshing drink of some substance – not bland or watery. Sweet ciders must not be cloying. Dry ciders must not be too austere. **Aroma/Flavor:** Sweet or low-alcohol ciders may have apple aroma and flavor. Dry ciders will be more wine-like with some esters. Sugar and acidity should combine to give a refreshing character. Acidity is medium to high, refreshing, but must not be harsh or biting. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant, pale to medium gold in color. **Mouthfeel:** Medium body. Some tannin should be present for slight to moderate astringency, but little bitterness. **Comments:** An ideal cider serves well as a “session” drink, and suitably accompanies a wide variety of food. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness (3 categories). If OG is substantially above typical range, entrant should explain, e.g., particular variety of apple giving high-gravity juice. **Varieties:** Common (Winesap, Macintosh, Golden Delicious, Braeburn, Jonathan), multi-use (Northern Spy, Russets, Baldwin), crabapples, any suitable wildings. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.045 – 1.065, FG: 0.995 – 1.020, ABV: 5 – 8%

B. English Cider

English Cider includes the English “West Country” plus ciders inspired by that style. These ciders are made with bittersweet and bitter-sharp apple varieties cultivated specifically for cider making. English ciders are traditionally fermented and aged in wood barrels, which adds some character; however, the barrels used are rarely new, so there is no overt wood character. **Overall Impression:** Generally dry, full-bodied, austere. Complex flavor profile, long finish. **Aroma/Flavor:** No overt apple character, but various flavors and esters that suggest apples, particularly tannic varieties. English-style ciders commonly go through MLF (see Introduction/Aroma-and-Flavor) which produces desirable spicy/smoky, phenolic, and farmyard/old-horse characters. These flavor notes are positive but **not** required. If present, they must not dominate; in particular, the phenolic and farmyard notes should not be heavy. A strong farmyard character without spicy/smoky or phenolic suggests a Brettanomyces contamination, which is a fault. Mousiness is a serious fault. **Appearance:** Barely cloudy to brilliant. Medium yellow to amber color. **Mouthfeel:** Full. Moderate to high tannin, perceived as astringency and some bitterness. Carbonation still to moderate. Bottle-fermented or -conditioned ciders may have high carbonation, up to champagne levels, but not gushing or foaming. **Comments:** Sweet examples exist, but dry is

most traditional, particularly when considering the drying contributions of tannin. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify variety of apple for a single varietal cider; if specified, varietal character will be expected. **Varieties:** Kingston Black, Stoke Red, Dabinett, Porter's Perfection, Nehou, Yarlington Mill, Major, various Jerseys, etc. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.050 – 1.075, FG: 0.995 – 1.015, ABV: 6 – 9%

C. French Cider

French Cider includes Normandy styles plus ciders inspired by those styles, including ciders made by various techniques to achieve the French flavor profile. These ciders are made with bittersweet and bitter-sharp apple varieties cultivated specifically for cider making. Traditional French procedures use small amounts of salt and calcium compounds (calcium chloride, calcium carbonate) to aid the process of pectin coagulation. These compounds may be used, pre-fermentation, but in limited quantity. It is a fault if judges can detect a salty or chalky taste. The enzyme PME (pectin methyl esterase) may also be used pre-fermentation for pectin coagulation.

Note that the sweetness/gravity levels indicate an overall tendency, not a sharp delineation between English and French ciders. **Overall Impression:** Medium to sweet, full-bodied, rich. **Aroma/Flavor:** Fruity character/aroma. This may come from slow or arrested fermentation (in the French technique of défécation) or approximated by back-sweetening with juice. Tends to a rich fullness. MLF notes of spicy-smoky, phenolic, and farmyard are common but not required (just as with English style), and must not be pronounced. The French expect more subtle MLF character than do the English.

Appearance: Clear to brilliant, medium yellow to amber color. **Mouthfeel:** Medium to full, mouth-filling. Moderate tannin, perceived mainly as astringency. Carbonation moderate to champagne-like, but at higher levels it must not gush or foam.

Comments: Typically made sweet to balance the tannin levels from the traditional apple varieties. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. Entrants **MAY** specify variety of apple for a single varietal cider; if specified, varietal character will be expected. **Varieties:** Nehou, Muscadet de Dieppe, Reine des Pommes, Michelin, etc. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.050 – 1.065, FG: 1.010 – 1.020, ABV: 3 – 6%

D. New World Perry

New World Perry is made from culinary/table pears. **Overall Impression:** Mild. Medium to medium-sweet. Still to lightly sparkling. Only very slight acetification is acceptable. Mousiness, ropy/oily characters are serious faults. **Aroma/Flavor:** There is a pear character, but not obviously fruity. It tends toward that of a young white wine. No bitterness. **Appearance:** Slightly cloudy to clear. Generally quite pale. **Mouthfeel:** Relatively full, low to moderate tannin apparent as astringency. **Comments:** Some table pears may contain significant amounts of sorbitol, in which case a dry perry may give an impression of sweetness due to sorbitol in the pears. Perception of sorbitol as sweet is highly variable from one person to the next. Hence, entrants should specify sweetness according to actual residual sugar amount, and judges must be aware that they might perceive more sweetness than how the perry was entered. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. **Varieties:** Bartlett, Kiefer, Comice, Conference, etc. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.050 – 1.060, FG: 1.000 – 1.020, ABV: 5 – 7%

E. Traditional Perry

Traditional perry is made from pears grown specifically for that purpose rather than for eating or cooking. Many “perry pears” are nearly inedible due to high tannins; some are also quite hard. Perry pears may contain substantial amounts of sorbitol, a non-fermentable sweet-tasting compound. Hence a perry can be completely dry (no residual sugar) yet taste sweet. **Overall Impression:** Tannic. Medium to medium-sweet. Still to lightly sparkling. Only very slight acetification is acceptable. Mousiness and ropy/oily characters are serious faults. **Aroma/Flavor:** There is a pear character, but not obviously fruity. It tends toward that of a young white wine. Some slight bitterness. **Appearance:** Slightly cloudy to clear. Generally quite pale. **Mouthfeel:** Relatively full, moderate to high tannin apparent as astringency. **Comments:** Note that a dry perry may give an impression of sweetness due to sorbitol in the pears, and perception of sorbitol as sweet is highly variable from one person to the next. Hence entrants should specify sweetness according to actual residual sugar amount, and judges must be aware that they might perceive more sweetness than how the perry was entered. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. Entrants **MUST** state variety of pear(s) used. **Varieties:** Butt, Gin, Brandy, Barland, Blakeney Red, Thorn, Moorcroft, etc. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.050 – 1.070, FG: 1.000 – 1.020, ABV: 5 – 9%

DIVISION 72: NEW ENGLAND & FRUIT CIDER

A. New England Cider; must specify if cider was barrel-fermented or aged

This is a cider made with characteristic New England apples for relatively high acidity, with additives to raise alcohol levels and contribute additional flavor notes. **Overall impression:** Substantial body and character. Typically relatively dry, but

can be somewhat sweet if in balance and not containing hot alcohol. **Aroma/Flavor:** A flavorful cider with robust apple character, strong alcohol, and derivative flavors from sugar additives; traditionally dry. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant, pale to medium yellow. **Mouthfeel:** Substantial, alcoholic. Moderate tannin. **Comments:** Additives may include white and brown sugars, molasses, small amounts of honey, and raisins. Additives are intended to raise OG well above that which would be achieved by apples alone. This style is sometimes barrel-aged, in which case there will be oak character as with a barrel-aged wine. If the barrel was formerly used to age spirits, some flavor notes from the spirit (e.g., whisky or rum) may also be present, but must be subtle. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify if the cider was barrel-fermented or aged. Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. **Varieties:** Northern Spy, Roxbury Russet, Golden Russet, Baldwin, etc.; many traditional New England apples. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.060 – 1.100, FG: 0.995 – 1.020, ABV: 7 – 13%

B. Cider with Other Fruit; must specify type of fruit

This is a cider with other fruits or fruit-juices added – for example, berry. This is the correct style to enter a beverage fermented from a combination of apple and pear juice. **Overall Impression:** Like a white wine with complex flavors. The apple character must marry with the added fruit so that neither one dominates the other. **Aroma/Flavor:** The cider character must be present and must fit with the other fruits. It is a fault if the added fruit(s) completely dominate; a judge might ask, Would this be different if neutral spirits replaced the cider? A fruit cider should not be like an alco-pop. Oxidation is a fault. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant. Color appropriate to added fruit, but should not show oxidation characteristics. (For example, red berries should give red-to-purple color, not orange.) **Mouthfeel:** Substantial. May be significantly tannic, depending on fruit added. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. Entrants **MUST** specify all fruit(s) and/or fruit juice(s) added. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.045 – 1.070, FG: 0.995 – 1.010, ABV: 5 – 9%

DIVISION 73: SPECIALTY CIDER & PERRY

A. Applewine; must specify carbonation level and sweetness

The term for this category is traditional but possibly misleading: it is simply a cider with substantial added sugar to achieve higher alcohol than a standard cider. As such it comes closer to a white wine than any other style. No fruit other than apples may be used in this style. **Overall Impression:** Typically like a dry white wine, balanced, and with low astringency and bitterness. **Aroma/Flavor:** Comparable to a New World Cider. Cider character must be distinctive. Very dry to sweet, although often dry. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant, pale to medium-gold. Cloudiness or hazes are inappropriate. **Mouthfeel:** Lighter than other ciders, because higher alcohol is derived from addition of sugar rather than juice. Carbonation may range from still to champagne-like. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.070 – 1.100, FG: 0.995 – 1.020, ABV: 9 – 12%

B. Ice Cider

This is a cider style in which the juice is concentrated before fermentation either by freezing fruit before pressing or freezing juice and removing water. Fermentation stops or is arrested before reaching dryness. The character differs from Applewine in that the ice cider process increases not only sugar (hence alcohol) but acidity and all fruit flavor components proportionately. No additives are permitted in this style; in particular, sweeteners may not be used to increase gravity. This style originated in Quebec in the 1990s. **Aroma/Flavor:** Fruity, smooth, sweet-tart. Acidity must be enough to prevent it being cloying. **Appearance:** Brilliant. Color is deeper than a standard cider, gold to amber. **Mouthfeel:** Full body. May be tannic (astringent and/or bitter) but should be slight, to moderate at most. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify starting gravity, final gravity or residual sugar, and alcohol level. **MUST** specify carbonation level. **Varieties:** Usually North American classic table fruit (McIntosh or Cortland). **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.130 – 1.180, FG: 1.060 – 1.085, ABV: 7 – 13%

C. Cider with Herbs/Spices

This is a cider with any combination of “botanicals” added. Hopped ciders are included in this category. Other examples are ciders with “apple pie” spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice), ginger, lemon grass, herbal tea blends, etc. **Overall Impression:** Like a white wine with complex flavors. The apple character must marry with the botanicals and give a balanced result. **Aroma/Flavor:** The cider character must be present and must fit with the botanicals. As with a fruit cider, it is a fault if the botanicals dominate; a judge might ask, Would this be different if neutral spirits replaced the cider? Oxidation of either the base cider or the additions is a fault. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant. Color appropriate to added botanicals. **Mouthfeel:** Average or more. Cider may be tannic from effect of botanicals but must not be bitter from over-extraction. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. Entrants **MUST** specify all botanicals added. If hops are used, entrant must specify variety/varieties used. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.045 – 1.070, FG: 0.995 – 1.010, ABV: 5 – 9%

D. Other Specialty Cider/Perry; must specify major ingredients

This is an open-ended category for cider or perry with other ingredients such that it does not fit any of the categories above. This includes the use of other sweeteners. A cider with added honey may be entered here if the cider character remains dominant; otherwise it should be entered as mead in the cyser sub-category. Examples also include wood-fermented or aged ciders in which the wood/barrel character is a significant part of the overall flavor profile.

Aroma/Flavor: The cider character must always be present, and must fit with added ingredients. If a spirit barrel was used, the character of the spirit (rum, whiskey, etc.) must be no more than just recognizable; it must not be a substantial element of the flavor. **Appearance:** Clear to brilliant. Color should be that of a standard cider unless other ingredients are expected to contribute color. **Mouthfeel:** Average body, may show tannic (astringent) or heavy body as determined by other ingredients. **Entry Instructions:** Entrants **MUST** specify all ingredients. Entrants **MUST** specify carbonation level (3 levels). Entrants **MUST** specify sweetness. **Vital Statistics:** OG: 1.045 – 1.100, FG: 0.995 – 1.020, ABV: 5 – 12%

SELTZER AND KOMBUCHA CATEGORIES

All Seltzer and Kombucha entries must be from grain derived alcohol. NO SPIRIT ALCOHOL is allowed. Entries should go in the category that best exemplifies the dominant flavor of the beverage. If you have any questions please contact SDIBF staff. Entries must specify the fruit, spice, herb, vegetable, specialty ingredients or classic cocktail style.

1. Important Attributes & Descriptions

For all Seltzer & Kombucha categories, the following general descriptions apply. If these are deviated from, it should be noted as intentional or it might count against the entry during judging.

- **Aroma** – With or without significant flavoring, entries should have no chemical water aroma such as chlorine, sulfur, tinny or metallic notes. Aroma should match the category or description entered. No off-fermentation flavors should be present. The aroma should reflect the primary flavor ingredients used and have no harsh notes
- **Carbonation** – Entries should be sparkling and carbonic acid perception should be in balance with over flavors and finish. Petillant or lest carbonated entries should indicate such. A range of carbonation not dissimilar to sparkling water is acceptable
- **Flavor and Sweetness** – all flavors and sweetness should be in balance whether derived from fruit, extracts, oils, herbs, spices, wood again or other means. The overall impression should be one of balance and integration. Flavor intensity will vary with alcohol and sweetness and should be judged by overall balance.
- **Alcohol** – Any Seltzer over 8% abv should be entered in the Strong and Specialty Seltzer category. No matter the ABV, the alcohol should not be hot or detract from the flavor.
- **Finish and Overall Impression** – Seltzers can be clear or cloudy, especially if cloudiness is derived from use of fruit. Balance between all of the above attributes is the goal leading to enjoyable drinking experience. No matter the intensity or alcohol percentage of the entry, the final verdict should rest on overall drinkability and integration of stated flavor additives.

DIVISION 74: CITRUS FLAVORED HARD SELTZER

A. Any Citrus

For any citrus forward seltzer under 8% abv. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 75: TROPICAL FRUIT FLAVORED HARD SELTZER

A. Any Tropical Fruit

For any tropical fruit forward seltzer under 8% abv. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 76: BERRY FRUIT FLAVORED HARD SELTZER

A. Any Berry/Fruit

For any berry fruit forward seltzer under 8% abv. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 77: HERB, SPICE, OR VEGETABLE HARD SELTZER

A. Any Herb, Spice, or Vegetable

For any herb, spice or vegetable forward seltzer under 8% abv. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 78: STRONG OF SPECIALTY HARD SELTZER

A. Any Other Specialty or Above 8% ABV

For any seltzer over 8% abv and any seltzer not fitting into the categories above. Also includes any barrel aged or wood-aged seltzer. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 79: CITRUS FLAVORED HARD KOMBUCHA

A. Any Citrus

For any citrus fruit forward kombucha. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 80: TROPICAL FRUIT FLAVORED HARD KOMBUCHA

A. Any Tropical Fruit

For any tropical fruit forward kombucha. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 81: BERRY FRUIT FLAVORED HARD KOMBUCHA

A. Any Berry/Fruit

For any berry fruit forward kombucha. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 82: HERB, SPICED, OR VEGETABLE HARD KOMBUCHA

A. Any Herb, Spice, or Vegetable

For any herb, spice or vegetable forward kombucha. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

DIVISION 83: SPECIALTY OR COCKTAIL HARD KOMBUCHA

A. Any Other Specialty or Cocktail

For any kombucha inspired by a classic cocktail flavor or not fitting into the categories above. Entries will be judged on aroma, flavor, balance and overall finish.

NON ALCOHOLIC CATEGORIES

DIVISION 84: NON ALCOHOLIC – NEW FOR 2026

A. Non Alcoholic

Color: Varies with underlying style Clarity: Varies with underlying style Perceived Malt Aroma & Flavor: Varies with underlying style Perceived Hop Aroma & Flavor: Varies with underlying style Perceived bitterness: Varies with underlying style Fermentation Characteristics: Typical of underlying style of non-alcohol beer produced. Non-alcohol (N/A) malt beverages can emulate the character of any beer style defined within these guidelines but with no or nearly no alcohol (less than 0.5 percent abv). Due to their nature, non-alcohol malt beverages will have a profile lacking the complexity and balance of flavors that beers containing alcohol will display. N/A beers should be assessed with this in mind, and should not be given negative evaluations for reasons related to the absence of alcohol. Body: Varies with underlying style Additional notes:

For purposes of competition, brewers will be asked to verify that the alcohol content of entries in this category are <0.5% abv. When using these guidelines as the basis for evaluating entries at competitions, brewers may be asked to provide supplemental information about entries in this category to allow for accurate evaluation of diverse entries, such as the underlying classic beer style. Original Gravity (°Plato) Varies with style • Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato) Varies with style • Alcohol by Weight (Volume) <0.4% abw (<0.5% abv) • Hop Bitterness (IBU) Varies with style • Color SRM (EBC) Varies with style