

2026

HOMEBREW COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES



thefair.org

THE  2026
FAIR
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Santa Clara County Fair

Home Brew Beer Competition



Amateur beer makers are invited to enter their homebrew beers for an impartial panel of experts to judge in our Home Brew Beer Competition, sanctioned by the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP).

Home Brew Beer Competition

Who May Enter:

The contest is open to all amateur beer makers 21 years of age and older.

How to Enter:

- 1) Register:
 - a) First go to [Welcome to ShoWorks!](#) and download the Code of Conduct and Release of Liability forms. Fill out and scan to your computer, you will need them for your online entries.
 - b) Online: <https://thefair.org/exhibitors/> Thursday, July 16th, 2026. **Late entries by July 23rd with a \$10 late fee per entry.**
 - i) Choose Homebrew Beer Department
 - ii) **NOTE: There will be no paper entries accepted.**
- 2) Please enter a description for each entry. Entries in styles 27-34 must have the base style specified and special ingredients identified.
- 3) For style 21B, Specialty IPA, please follow these instructions: Entrants may use this category for a different strength version of an IPA defined by its own BJCP subcategory (e.g., session-strength American or English IPA) – except where an existing BJCP subcategory already exists for that style (e.g., double [American] IPA). A Session IPA is a 21B Specialty IPA with a base style of 21A American IPA with Session strength. A Double IPA is Category 22A, not 21B. Entrant must specify a strength (session, standard, double); if no strength is specified, the standard will be assumed. Entrant must specify specific type of Specialty IPA from the list of Currently Defined Types identified in the Style Guidelines (Belgian IPA, Black IPA, Brown IPA, Red IPA, Rye IPA, White IPA, Brut IPA), or as amended by Provisional Styles on the BJCP website; OR the entrant must describe the type of Specialty IPA and its key characteristics in the comment form so judges will know what to expect. Entrants may specify specific hop varieties used if entrants feel that judges may not recognize the varietal characteristics of newer hops. Entrants may specify a combination of defined IPA types (e.g., Black Rye IPA) without providing additional descriptions.
- 4) Please specify the intended drop-off location.
- 5) \$10.00 per entry fee. You must pay online as part of your online entry.
 - a) Multiple entries per class are permitted (each entry consists of three 12 oz. bottles or cans, or three 16oz cans, in a **six-pack holder**).
 - i) Due to the inconvenience of handling, no other bottles or cans will be accepted.
 - ii) NIP bottles (6 oz. -8 oz.) will be accepted in the strong ale, mead, and barley wine categories.
 - iii) One bottle will be used for preliminary round judging; another will be used for mini Best-of-Show judging for styles with multiple flights. The third bottle will be used for overall Best-of-Show judging.
- 6) The following information **MUST** appear on the provided entry ID form:
 - a) Name of exhibitor
 - b) Phone number and E-mail address of the exhibitor
 - c) Beer style name including Division and Class
 - d) Base style and special ingredients for styles 27-34

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Please Note:

- In most cases the entry system requires all exhibitors to complete a W9. If prompted to complete the W9 form, you may bypass the form by simply entering zeros on the form.
- Entries become the property of the Fair and will not be returned.
- Entries lacking the required information on the bottle ID form will be disqualified.
- Bottles, caps, and cans must be free of any labels or markings. Caps may be any color but should only be solid colors.

Entry Dropoff Deadline:

Beer bottles or cans with I.D. labels attached (**with rubber bands only, no glue or tape**) must be delivered to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Saturday, August 8th 9AM and 5PM or Sunday, August 9th between 9AM and 5PM **ONLY** to Fiesta Hall by entering Gate C.

Judging Criteria:

The SCCF Homebrew Competition is using the 2021 BJCP Style Guidelines.
See the BJCP website at www.bjcp.org for judging criteria details.



Awards

Best of Show Award Sponsored by



“Best-of-Show” will receive a Rosette and Best of Show winner gets the opportunity to brew at Clandestine with the professional brewers, and then have their beer served at the brewery and a \$75 gift card from Oak Barrel Wine craft.

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Rosettes will be awarded per category.
- The judges may organize multiple categories into a single tasting flight for effective judging.

Questions:

Please contact the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Exhibits Assistant, Shea De’Arman: SDearman@thefair.org

2026 Drop-Off Locations

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds	Clandestine	MoreBeer Retail Store	Oak Barrel Winecraft
Fiesta Hall	Clandestine Brewing,	995 Detroit Ave, Unit G	1443 San Pablo Ave
344 Tully Road San Jose, CA 95111 Phone: (408) 981-1226 www.thefair.org	980 S. 1st St. Ste. B, San Jose, CA 95110 Phone: (408) 520-0220 www.clandestinebrewing.com	995 Detroit Ave Concord, CA 94518 Phone: (925)-771-7107 MoreBeer.com!	1443 San Pablo Ave Berkeley, CA 94702 Phone: (510) 849-0400 Oak Barrel Winecraft
August 8th-9th 9AM-5PM	July 1st-August 7th	July 1st-August 7th	July 1st-August 7th

Santa Clara County Fair Home Brew Beer Competition

Home Brew Styles (By Division)

Not sure what style your brew is? Check www.bjcp.org for more information!

DIVISION:5001 Homebrew Beer – STANDARD AMERICAN BEER

CLASS:	
1A. American Light Lager	1C. Cream Ale
1B. American Lager	1D. American Wheat Beer

Division:5002 Homebrew Beer - INTERNATIONAL LAGER

CLASS:	
2A. International Pale Lager	2C. International Dark Lager
2B. International Amber Lager	

Division:5003 Homebrew Beer - CZECH LAGER

CLASS:	
3A. Czech Pale Lager	3C. Czech Amber Lager
3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager	3D. Czech Dark Lager

Division:5004 Homebrew Beer - PALE MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

CLASS:	
4A. Munich Helles	4C. Helles Bock
4B. Festbier	

Division:5005 Homebrew Beer - PALE BITTER EUROPEAN BEER

CLASS:	
5A. German Leichtbier	5C. German Helles Exportbier
5B. Kölsch	5D. German Pils

Division:5006 Homebrew Beer - AMBER MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

CLASS:	
6A. Märzen	6C. Dunkles Bock
6B. Rauchbier	

Division:5007 Homebrew Beer - AMBER BITTER EUROPEAN BEER

CLASS:	
7A. Vienna	7B. Altbier

Division:5008 Homebrew Beer - DARK EUROPEAN LAGER

CLASS:	
8A. Munich Dunkel	8B. Schwarzbier

Division:5009 Homebrew Beer - STRONG EUROPEAN BEER

CLASS:	
9A. Doppelbock	9C. Baltic Porter
9B. Eisbock	

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Division:5010 Homebrew Beer - GERMAN WHEAT BEER

CLASS:	
10A. Weissbier	10C. Weizenbock
10B. Dunkles Weissbier	

Division:5011 Homebrew Beer - BRITISH BITTER

CLASS:	
11A. Ordinary Bitter	11C. Strong Bitter
11B. Best Bitter	

Division:5012 Homebrew Beer - PALE COMMONWEALTH BEER

CLASS:	
12A. British Golden Ale	12C. English IPA
12B. Australian Sparkling Ale	

Division:5013 Homebrew Beer - BROWN BRITISH BEER

CLASS:	
13A. Dark Mild	13C. English Porter
13B. British Brown Ale	

Division:5014 Homebrew Beer - SCOTTISH ALE

CLASS:	
14A. Scottish Light	14C. Scottish Export
14B. Scottish Heavy	

Division:5015 Homebrew Beer - IRISH BEER

CLASS:	
15A. Irish Red Ale	15C. Irish Extra Stout
15B. Irish Stout	

Division:5016 Homebrew Beer - DARK BRITISH BEER

CLASS:	
16A. Sweet Stout	16C. Tropical Stout
16B. Oatmeal Stout	16D. Foreign Extra Stout

Division:5017 Homebrew Beer - STRONG BRITISH ALE

CLASS:	
17A. British Strong Ale	17C. Wee Heavy
17B. Old Ale	17D. English Barleywine

Division:5018 Homebrew Beer - PALE AMERICAN ALE

CLASS:	
18A. Blonde Ale	18B. American Pale Ale

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Division:5019 Homebrew Beer - AMBER AND BROWN AMERICAN

CLASS:	
19A. American Amber Ale	19C. American Brown Ale
19B. California Common	

Division:5020 Homebrew Beer - AMERICAN PORTER AND STOUT

CLASS:	
20A. American Porter	20C. Imperial Stout
20B. American Stout	

Division:5021 Homebrew Beer - IPA

CLASS:	
21A. American IPA	21C. Hazy IPA
21B. Specialty IPA	

Division:5022 Homebrew Beer - STRONG AMERICAN ALE

CLASS:	
22A. Double IPA	22C. American Barleywine
22B. American Strong Ale	22D. Wheatwine

DIVISION:5023 Homebrew Beer - EUROPEAN SOUR ALE

CLASS:	
23A. Berliner Weisse	23E. Gueuze
23B. Flanders Red Ale	23F. Fruit Lambic
23C. Oud Bruin	23G. Gose
23D. Lambic	

Division:5024 Homebrew Beer – BELGIAN ALE

CLASS:	
24A. Witbier	24C. Bière de Garde
24B. Belgian Pale Ale	

Division:5025 Homebrew Beer – STRONG BELGIAN ALE

CLASS:	
25A. Belgian Blonde Ale	25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale
25B. Saison	

Division:5026 Homebrew Beer – MONASTIC ALE

CLASS:	
26A. Belgian Single	26C. Belgian Tripel
26B. Belgian Dubbel	26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

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Home Brew Styles (By Division)

Not sure what style your brew is? Check www.bjcp.org for more information!

Division:5027 Homebrew Beer – HISTORICAL BEER

CLASS:	
27A. Kellerbier	27F. Pre-Prohibition Lager
27B. Kentucky Common	27G. Pre-Prohibition Porter
27C. Lichtenhainer	27H. Roggenbier
27D. London Brown Ale	27I. Sahti
27E. Piwo Grodziskie	27J. Other Historical Style – please specify

Division:5028 Homebrew Beer – AMERICAN WILD ALE

CLASS:	
28A. Brett Beer	28C. Wild Specialty Beer
28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer	28D. Straight Sour Beer

Division:5029 Homebrew Beer – FRUIT BEER

CLASS:	
29A. Fruit Beer	29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
29B. Fruit and Spice Beer	29D. Grape Ale

Division:5030 Homebrew Beer – SPICED BEER

CLASS:	
30A. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer	30C. Winter Seasonal Beer
30B. Autumn Seasonal Beer	30D. Specialty Spice Beer

Division:5031 Homebrew Beer – ALTERNATIVE FERMENTABLES BEER

CLASS:	
31A. Alternative Grain Beer	31B. Alternative Sugar Beer

Division:5032 Homebrew Beer – SMOKED BEER

CLASS:	
32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer	32B. Specialty Smoked Beer

Division:5033 Homebrew Beer – WOOD BEER

CLASS:	
33A. Wood-Aged Beer	33B. Specialty Wood-Aged Beer

Division:5034 Homebrew Beer – SPECIALTY BEER

CLASS:	
34A. Commercial Specialty Beer	34C. Experimental Beer
34B. Mixed-Style Beer	

Home Brew Entry ID Forms

Attach ID Form with a rubber band (no glue or tape) to each bottle or can and place it in a six-pack holder. Labels must contain Style Name, Division, Class, and Base Style.

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest 2025	
Bottle Identification Form - <i>Example</i>	
Name:	John Smith
Phone:	408-341-000
Email:	JSmith@yahoo.com
Style Name:	1B American Lager
Division:	Home Brew Beer – Standard American Beer
Class:	2
Base Style:	American Lager
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year: _____	
Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Style Name:	
Division:	
Class:	
Base Style:	
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year: _____	
Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Style Name:	
Division:	
Class:	
Base Style:	
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year: _____	
Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Style Name:	
Division:	
Class:	
Base Style:	
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year: _____	
Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Style Name:	
Division:	
Class:	
Base Style:	
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	

Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year: _____	
Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Style Name:	
Division:	
Class:	
Base Style:	
<i>Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!</i>	



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CountyFairgrounds