2026

# HOMEBREW COMPETITION

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

thefair.org

THE 2026 FAIR
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Revised: 4/1/26

# 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) 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

Revised: 4/1/26

# Santa Clara County Fair
# Home Brew Beer Competition

**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**

Oak Barrel Winecraft
Est. 1957
everything for the makers of wine and beer

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

Revised: 4/1/26

# Santa Clara County Fair
# Home Brew Beer Competition

## Home Brew Styles (By Division)

**Not sure what style your brew is? Check [www.bjcp.org](http://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 | |

Revised: 4/1/26

# Santa Clara County Fair
# Home Brew Beer Competition

## Home Brew Styles (By Division)

**Not sure what style your brew is? Check [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org) for more information!**

**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 |

Revised: 4/1/26

# Santa Clara County Fair
# Home Brew Beer Competition

## Home Brew Styles (By Division)

**Not sure what style your brew is? Check [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org) for more information!**

**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 |

Revised: 4/1/26

# 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: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 | |

Revised: 4/1/26

# 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 - *Example* | |
| **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 |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

| **Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year:_____** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | |
| **Email:** | |
| **Style Name:** | |
| **Division:** | |
| **Class:** | |
| **Base Style:** | |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

| **Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year:_____** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | |
| **Email:** | |
| **Style Name:** | |
| **Division:** | |
| **Class:** | |
| **Base Style:** | |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

| **Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year:_____** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | |
| **Email:** | |
| **Style Name:** | |
| **Division:** | |
| **Class:** | |
| **Base Style:** | |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

| **Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year:_____** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | |
| **Email:** | |
| **Style Name:** | |
| **Division:** | |
| **Class:** | |
| **Base Style:** | |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

| **Santa Clara County Fair Homebrew Contest Year:_____** | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | |
| **Email:** | |
| **Style Name:** | |
| **Division:** | |
| **Class:** | |
| **Base Style:** | |
| ***Attach one label per bottle using a rubber band only!*** | |

INFO

thefair.org

sccfairgrounds

344 Tully Road,
San Jose, CA 95111 501c3

@SantaClara
CountyFairgrounds