

Introduction to BJCP Judging

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April 2019 - Northern Maverick Brewing Co

Previous Presentation

- January 2016: Intro to BJCP 2015 Guidelines
- Last presentation covered:
 - In depth details about the guidelines
 - What makes a beer style
 - Changes from 2008 -> 2015 editions
- This is not a repeat of that presentation
- Available at:
 - gtabrews.ca/presentations

BJCP Resources on gtabrews.ca

- BJCP Competition Guide
 - gtabrews.ca/bjcp-competition-guide
- BJCP Exam Study Resources
 - gtabrews.ca/bjcp-exam-study-resources
- Toronto BJCP Exams
 - gtabrews.ca/toronto-bjcp-exams
 - Overview of how I organize exams
 - Sign up for exams here

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Audience Survey

- Who is familiar with the BJCP?
- Who has entered a competition and gotten helpful feedback from BJCP judges?
- Who has volunteered at a homebrew competition and witnessed the judging process?
- Who is already a BJCP judge?
- Who is interested in becoming a BJCP judge?
- Who thinks that beer is meant to be drank and not judged?

Why You Should Become a BJCP Judge

- Becoming a BJCP judge will improve your homebrewing
- Judging beer helps you:
 - Understand and identify beer flavours and aromas
 - Learn about brewing ingredients/processes and their effects
 - Develop your understanding of beer styles
 - Compare your perceptions with other judges
 - Benefit from the diverse experience of other judges
- We have a shortage of judges in Canada so new ones are appreciated

What is the BJCP

- Volunteer organization that certifies and ranks beer judges
 - Sanctions competitions
 - Provides educational resources
 - Publisher of the [BJCP 2015 Beer Style Guidelines](#)
 - Also certifies mead and cider judges.
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- Learn more about the BJCP at: bjcp.org

How Does Beer Judging Work?

- Seated at a table with a judging partner
- Assigned a medal category of similar beers to judge
- Tasks:
 - Fill out scoresheets with comments and scores
 - Share your perceptions and constructive feedback
 - Discuss and reach consensus with your judging partner
 - Decide which entries win from your flight

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How to Become a BJCP Beer Judge

- To become a ranked BJCP beer judge, one must pass two exams:
 - [Online Entrance Exam](#) (P/F exam of 200 questions in 60 min)
 - Cost: \$10 USD
 - [Beer Judging Exam](#) (Judging 6 beers in 90 minutes)
 - Cost: \$40 USD (first-time), \$15 USD (retakes)
- Passing the Online Entrance Exam grants the temporary rank:
 - Provisional Judge
 - Not a permanent rank, expires after one year
 - Allows you to be judging
- Passing the Beer Judging Exam grants the ranks:
 - Recognized Judge
 - 60% - 70% OR less than 5 judging points
 - Certified Judge
 - 70%+ AND 5+ judging points

How to Become a BJCP Beer Judge

- To advance to the National rank (or higher), judges must also take:
 - [Written Beer Exam](#) (20 TF and 5 written essay questions in 90 minutes)
- Other Ranks:
 - National
 - Master
 - Grand Master I to X+
- More Info:
 - [BJCP Exam Program Overview](#)
 - [BJCP Exam Structure](#)

Online Exam Tips

- The Online Entrance Exam covers content from 3 documents:
 - BJCP – [Beer Style Guidelines \(2015\)](#)
 - BJCP – [Beer Study Guide](#)
 - BJCP – [Judge Procedures Manual](#)
- Main Topics:
 - Understand BJCP beer styles 1-26
 - Major characteristics, statistics, and comparison to similar styles
 - Off flavours
 - Common perception, common causes, acceptable in which styles
- Use the free practice exams to gauge your knowledge

Online Exam Tips

- Buy the 3for2 package to lower the inertial barrier
- Use two screens
 - Screen 1: Exam, Screen 2: Guidelines/Study Guide
- “Star” answers you are un-sure about to come back at the end
- Don’t obsess over perfecting this exam, it’s only PASS/fail
- Write this exam ASAP so that you can begin judging as a Provisional judge to gain experience

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Judging Exam Tips

- This exam is closed book
 - It's key to have a solid understanding of the Guidelines
- You should be comfortable writing scoresheets
 - Experience judging at competitions helps greatly
- Read the [Scoresheet Guide](#) to understand how you will be graded
 - 20% each:
 - Scoring Accuracy
 - Perception
 - Descriptive Ability
 - Feedback
 - Completeness

Judging Exam Tips

- Practice scoresheets with wide ranging beer quality
 - Not just commercial examples
- Example exam from [Beer Judging Exam Procedures](#):
 - 1. British Strong Bitter – flaw such as incipient oxidation and weak hop aroma
 - 2. Weissbier - good example, but with slightly too much sourness
 - 3. Doppelbock – no flaws, outstanding example
 - 4. Saison – somewhat flawed, with higher than desirable phenols or alcohol
 - 5. Imperial Stout – very good example, but lacks smoothness found in best examples
 - 6. American IPA – seriously flawed with fruitiness, astringency or diacetyl
- Practice writing scoresheets
 - Then analyse them against the [Scoresheet Guide](#)

Beer Judging Exam – July 13th 2019

- Sign Up: gtabrews.ca/toronto-bjcp-exams
- I want to see this exam to be filled with GTA Brews members!
- **Toronto BJCP Exam Registration Policy**
 - Persons interested in taking a Toronto BJCP Exam should sign up using the form below to be added to the notify list
 - Exam seat sign up begins approximately 2-3 months before the exam date
 - No seat reservations are guaranteed before then
 - An announcement email will be sent to the notify list when sign up opens
 - Once sign up begins, seats are reserved first-come first-served
 - To reserve a seat both pre-requisites must be met:
 - 1) Online exam must be complete, and copy of certificate must be forwarded
 - 2) Paid [exam fee](#) (instructions in announcement email)

Tips to Learn Beer Styles

- Brew the styles you aren't familiar with
 - Best way to learn what makes an Altbier is to make one!
- Read the Overall Impression and Comparison sections
- Online study resources
- Taste critically
 - When drinking a beer, consider whether or not it fits the style
- Fill out scoresheets for niche styles
- Beer Syndicate's [Beer Style Compare-O-Matic](#)

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Questions?

