COMPETITION RULES 2027





Context

The Barcelona Beer Challenge is an internationally renowned competition that, since its inception, has worked to promote quality beer culture and showcase the excellence of breweries from around the world.

In this **12th edition (2027)**, we renew our commitment to the industry by offering a prestigious platform where breweries can validate the quality of their products through a rigorous evaluation process, receive professional feedback, and strengthen their positioning among the market, industry professionals, and consumers.

The competition holds its awards ceremony as part of the **Barcelona Beer Festival**. By sharing the same venue and taking place on the same days, both events create a unique ecosystem that amplifies the competition's impact, increases media exposure, and provides international visibility for all participating breweries.

Taking part in the Barcelona Beer Challenge is about much more than competing for a medal: it means being part of a project that recognises excellence, highlights the work of brewers, and puts participating beers in front of a professional judging panel, the industry, and thousands of quality beer enthusiasts.

837	52	156	16
REGISTERED BEERS	CATEGORIES	BREWERIES	COUNTRIES

VISIBILITY • EXPOSURE • COLLABORATION

BARCELONA BEER CHALLENGE

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



Presentation:

Objectives: The motivations behind the organisation of the BBC competition are as follows:

- **Promote and add value** to quality beer.
- **Encourage excellence in the industry** by rewarding beers that meet high quality standards.
- **Increase visibility**
- **Create a competitive environment** for national and international breweries.
- **Promote the internationalisation** of locally produced beers.
- **Promote education and knowledge** about quality beer among consumers.
- **Reflect trends** in the beer industry at both national and international level.
- **Promote a message of variety and quality** associated with the wide range of beers available.
- **Foster a culture of responsible consumption,** highlighting beer as a gastronomic element.
- **Create a quality seal that recognises beers deserving of this distinction,** providing consumers with a useful reference when making their purchasing and consumption decisions.

EXPOSURE. Your beer, in front of thousands of people. The awards ceremony takes place as part of the Barcelona Beer Festival, in front of both industry professionals and consumers, creating new opportunities to showcase your brand.

PROJECTION. Amplify your recognition. Competition medals and results become content and communication shared through the social media channels of the Barcelona Beer Challenge and Barcelona Beer Festival, helping to extend your brand's reach beyond the competition.

COLLABORATION. Be part of a community all year round. Taking part in the Barcelona Beer Challenge also means becoming part of a beer ecosystem where we work together with breweries throughout the year, creating initiatives, content, and opportunities to maintain and strengthen their visibility.



Take part of it

Who can participate in the competition:

- **Breweries that comply with the legislation** in force in their country regarding the production and marketing of beer.

- **Beer brands** that produce their beers at the facilities of a brewery holding the appropriate permits to produce and market the product. A producer may not enter a beer brewed for another brand under its own name.

Registration process:

To register, each participant must complete the form available on the competition website:
www.barcelonabeerchallenge.com

The registration fees are detailed in the table below. The final cost will depend on the number of beers entered, with a **maximum of 15 beers per brewery.**

REGISTRATION PRICES

NUMBER OF BEERS REGISTERED	TOTAL PRICE (EXCL. VAT)	PRICE PER BEER (EXCL. VAT)
REGISTRATION 1 BEER	126 €	126 €
REGISTRATION 2 BEERS	190 €	95 €
REGISTRATION 3 BEERS	237 €	79 €
FROM THE 4TH BEER ONWARDS	–	32 € / ADDITIONAL BEER

From the fourth beer onwards, the cost will be **32 €** for each additional beer.

BARCELONA BEER CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



Participation and Registration Conditions

- Registration will be carried out through the competition website: **www.barcelonabeerchallenge.com**.
- **Each participating brewery may enter a maximum of 15 beers.**
- The BBC organisation will confirm receipt of the registration by email. **Participation will be confirmed upon payment** of the corresponding entry fee to BE (the organising company) for the beers entered.
- **An invoice will be issued** in the name of the entrant using the tax details provided in the registration form. Participants are responsible for ensuring that the information provided is accurate.
- The organisation reserves **the right to verify the information provided**, using any legal procedures or actions it deems necessary.
- **The sample submission period** will run between the dates indicated in the calendar, both days included.
- **Beers received outside this period will not be admitted to the competition**, and participants will not be entitled to claim a refund of the entry fee.
- The organisation reserves the right to close registrations before the deadline established in these rules if, during the registration period, **the limit of 1,500 registered beer** entries eligible to participate in the competition is exceeded.

CALENDAR 2027

REGISTRATIONS
From October 19, 2026 to January 17, 2027

SAMPLE SUBMISSIONS
From January 25 to February 5, 2027

JUDGING SESSIONS
February 12, 13 and 14, 2027

AWARDS CEREMONY
Within the framework of Barcelona Beer Festival 2027

BARCELONA BEER CHALLENGE
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



Shipments:

- For each beer entered in the competition, participants must provide **4 samples** of the product entered.

- **The shipping address will be provided at the time of registration.** All shipping costs shall be borne by the participant. Any additional logistics or customs costs arising from the shipment will not be covered by the organisation and shall be the responsibility of the brewer/participant.

Shipping Documentation and Liability:

- Participants are advised to **include a pro forma invoice with the sample shipment**, identifying each package with the participating brewery, including a list of the beers entered and stating "samples of no commercial value".

- **The organisation shall not be held responsible for theft, loss, damage, or delays during shipment.**

- **Samples with partially or completely damaged packaging will not be admitted to the competition.**

- To avoid incidents upon receipt of the samples, participants are advised **to ensure that the packaging of the entered beers is suitable for the handling the package** will undergo during transport.

- **We recommend transporting the beer in an upright position,** using sturdy packaging with separators between bottles.

- To ensure safe transportation, indicate on the outside of the **package that the contents are fragile** and clearly mark the correct position with "This side up" or arrows.

- **The BBC reserves the right to reject samples** that present any irregularity upon receipt. In such cases, the organisation will inform the participant in order to find a solution. If the deadline allows, the participant may be asked to send new samples by express courier.

Shipping Recommendations

Breweries within the EU: It is recommended not to use public postal services and to always work with private courier companies that guarantee and take responsibility for delivery.

Breweries outside the EU: After pre-registration, the organisation will contact the brewery to assess the best way to ensure a successful shipment and provide information regarding the required documentation, additional costs, and possible delays at Spanish Customs.



Control and Storage of Received Samples

- The organiser guarantees **optimal storage of the samples received** for participation in the competition, keeping them in a secure location at the appropriate temperature and under suitable atmospheric conditions to ensure the proper preservation of the beers.

- The BBC **will sort the samples according to the corresponding style declared** in the registration form.

- **The following samples will not be entered in the competition:** samples that arrive after the established beer reception deadline, or those that have not been properly registered. Those that do not correspond to the registered product.

- Upon receipt of the samples, the organisation will verify that the beer samples **comply with the labelling regulations applicable under the manufacturing legislation established** in the country of production.

- The BBC reserves the right **to reject samples that do not meet the specified requirements.**

BAP registration system:

- **BAP (Beer Awards Platform) is the platform through which the entire registration process for the Barcelona Beer Challenge is carried out.** Each brewery has its own account, from which it can register its beers, view and update registration details, and manage the process until registration closes.

- Once the beers have been registered, the system allows participants to view the information associated with each entry and **track the sample reception process.** If any issue is detected with a received sample, this information will also be recorded in the system.

- From the same BAP account, breweries **will be able to view the results obtained in the Barcelona Beer Challenge** once the edition has concluded and the awards ceremony has taken place.

- **To access the system**, simply enter the platform **through the competition website** and log in using the email address and password used during registration. If you do not have an account from previous editions, you will need to create one.

- Consult the registration process through **this link**



Internal Organisation of the Competition

The BBC organisation consists of 3 distinct bodies: the Steering Committee, the Technical Secretariat, and the Judging Panel, each of which is assigned the following functions:

Steering Committee

It serves as **the highest decision-making body** within the organisation of the BBC. Its mission is to ensure the proper development of the competition and coordinate the different areas involved. **The Committee is made up of the Beer Events team** (the organising team behind the Barcelona Beer Challenge and the Barcelona Beer Festival).

Main tasks carried out by the aforementioned Committee:

- **Designing the competition's strategic guidelines.**
- **Developing the governing rules** set out in these regulations.
- **Ensuring the proper development** of the competition, in accordance with the governing rules.
- **Coordinating the different areas** of the competition, particularly the Judging Panel and the Technical Secretariat.
- **Coordinació amb els agents externs** implicats a les diferents fases del concurs (disseny, comunicació, etc.).
- **Selecció i nomenament del Jura**t del concurs.
- **Anàlisis de les dades** referents a les avaluacions del Jurat i la proposta de guanyadors.
- **Supervisió del correcte funcionament** del concurs des del punt de vista pràctic (anonimat de les mostres, servei òptim, elements per facilitar la correcta degustació, etc.).

Secretariat

It is responsible for carrying out all the actions necessary for the proper development of the competition, implementing its strategic guidelines. In particular, it oversees registrations, invoicing, sample reception, the organisation of the Judging Panel sessions, and communication with all parties involved.

Techincal **Secretariata:** Anna Portavella. Contact: aportavella@barcelonabeerchallenge.com



Jury

As the BBC organisation is committed to the professionalisation of the industry, the competition's Judging Panel will consist **exclusively of judges accredited** with BJCP certification, experience and/or formal training related to beer tasting.
Their primary task is to evaluate the beers entered in accordance with the parameters established in these regulations. No member of the Judging Panel may participate in any evaluation involving a beer with which they have a commercial connection or interest.

Competition Process

Preliminary Checks:

- Once the organisation has verified that participants have strictly complied with the registration, payment, and beer submission deadlines, **the beers will be evaluated within the relevant competition category,** according to the information provided by each participant at the time of registration.

- Participants are advised to **carefully review the style classification of the beers they enter.** A style and substyle must be assigned from the categories that largely correspond to the standards of the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) or the appendices specified below.

- The organisation **reserves the right to reject a beer from the competition if the category in which it has been entered differs from the category under which it is normally marketed.**

Evaluation Sessions:

- **Anonymous presentation:** beers are presented to the Judging Panel anonymously and identified by a reference number.

- **Evaluation by style:** each beer is evaluated in comparison with other samples within the same style.

- **Optimal conditions:** samples are served at the appropriate temperature to ensure proper tasting conditions.

- **BJCP criteria:** evaluations follow BJCP criteria and standards, taking into account the specific characteristics of each style.

- **Tasting neutrality:** the Judging Panel is provided with the necessary elements to cleanse the palate between tastings.

- **Results management:** the organisation collects and reviews all evaluation sheets and calculates the final scores.

- **Confidentiality:** evaluations are treated as confidential information. Each brewery receives the individual results of its beers in the form of a summary evaluatin sheet.



Competition Categories

El BBC parteix de **36 categories,** basades principalment en el reglament BJCP 2021, incorporant també categories específiques adaptades a la realitat i evolució del sector cerveser.

Entre les **categories diferenciades respecte al BJCP 2021** s'inclouen: **Mediterranean Lager, Hazy Pale Ale, Other Specialty Pale Ale, Pastry Stout, Specialty IPA, Session IPA, Hazy DIPA, Wood-Aged Beer, Imperial Stout Wood-Aged Beer, Non Alcoholic Beer i Non Alcoholic IPA** (veure annex al final del document)

Les categories **s'avaluen segons els estàndards BJCP actualitzats. No s'accepten sidres ni hidromels.** L'organització es reserva el dret de combinar categories quan les circumstàncies del concurs ho requereixin.

Sistema de competició
El nombre de rondes s'adapta al volum de cerveses inscrites:

- **Fins a 10 cerveses: Final directa.**
- **D'11 a 30 cerveses: Semifinal + Final.**
- **Més de 30 cerveses: Quarts de Final + Semifinal + Final.**

En categories **amb més de 20 inscripcions**, les cerveses es distribueixen en **subcategories,** indicades pels participants durant la inscripció.

A les fases prèvies no s'atorguen reconeixements: es seleccionen les 3 millors cerveses de cada grup per avançar a la següent ronda. Els reconeixements individuals s'atorguen a la Final.

Puntuació
La primera vegada que cada cervesa és valorada pel Jurat, **rep una puntuació numèrica** segons els criteris BJCP. Aquesta puntuació no és vinculant per determinar el pas de ronda i/o l'atorgament de medalles.

Cada ronda és independent: les puntuacions no s'acumulen ni s'arrosseguen entre fases.



AWARDS

The Barcelona Beer Challenge celebrates brewing excellence with the prestige and credibility provided by an internationally recognised judging panel. Receiving a distinction at the Challenge means positioning your beer among the leading entries in its category and gaining recognition that adds prestige, credibility and value among consumers, industry professionals and trade partners.
A recognition that becomes part of the beer's journey and that brands can communicate and showcase across their different channels, strengthening their positioning, reputation and ability to stand out in an increasingly competitive market.

Awards for the Best Beers by Style

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals: Awarded based on the quality of the beer and parameters such as aroma, flavour, mouthfeel, visual appearance, absence of defects and adherence to the corresponding BJCP style.

Platinum Award: A special distinction awarded to beers that achieve their fifth medal, regardless of the medal level or the edition in which the previous four were won. It recognises consistency and sustained excellence over time.





SPECIAL AWARDS

Best Brewery Award: This award recognises the overall performance of the beers submitted by a brewery, based on the total points achieved by each participating beer: 2 points for a Bronze Medal, 3 points for a Silver Medal and 5 points for a Gold Medal.

Best Rookie Brewery Award* This award recognises the best newly established brewery*. It is awarded to the new brewery achieving the highest score, following the same system: 2 points for a Bronze Medal, 3 points for a Silver Medal and 5 points for a Gold Medal.

*Eligible breweries are those established after January 1, 2024.

Mr.Malt

AWARDS POWERED BY MR. MALT

In addition to the medals awarded based on scoring, the Barcelona Beer Challenge includes two unique recognitions that are assessed independently, according to specific criteria and by a specialised judging panel.

Mr Malt Innovation Award: For eight years, we have helped inspire brewers to explore new territories by presenting an award that recognises innovation in the creative brewing process. The award, promoted by **Mr. Malt**, aims to encourage brewers to step outside their usual approaches and drive innovation within the industry.

Brewing Hope for a Better Future: Also powered by **Mr. Malt**, this award aims to recognise and celebrate craft breweries that are leading the way towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.









Results:

In all cases, the final decision regarding the awarding of prizes shall be final and not subject to appeal. The awards will be presented at a public ceremony held as part of the **16th edition of the Barcelona Beer Festival 2027.**

Following the ceremony, all participants will be able to **consult the results** obtained in the evaluations through the BAP registration system, and the **list of winning beers** will be published on the competition website.

The BBC organisation will also be responsible for communications regarding the competition process, results, and award-winning beers through press releases, social media, the BBC website, other digital media (blogs, portals, etc.) and, where applicable, communication agencies appointed for this purpose.

Winners will receive:

- **An official trophy** for each award received.
- **A distinctive quality seal** corresponding to each award-winning beer, which may be used on its labels, digital platforms, promotional materials, website, and other communication channels.

* The distinctive seal will include the year of the BBC edition in which the award was obtained and must always be used with this indication. Its use without stating the corresponding year will not be permitted. The organisation reserves the right to withdraw the award granted in the event of non-compliance with this requirement.

Other aspects:

- **Sample Verification:** the organisation reserves the right to verify the correspondence between award-winning beers and other samples of the same beer. If substantial differences are detected that indicate a possible irregularity, the organisation may withdraw the award and disqualify the participant from the competition, as well as notify the relevant authorities.
- **Remaining Samples:** samples not used during the competition will not be returned and may be used for promotional or training activities by the organisation or companies within its group.
- **Competition Cancellation:** in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the organisation's control, the organisation may cancel or postpone the competition, without any compensation being due or any obligation to return the samples received.
- **Acceptance of the Regulations:** completion of the registration and payment of the corresponding fee constitute the participant's express and unconditional acceptance of these regulations.
- **Jurisdiction:** any dispute arising from participation in the competition shall be subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the courts of Barcelona.

APPENDIX: COMPETITION STYLES

1.STANDARD AMERICAN BEER
1A. American Light Lager
1B. American Lager
1C. Cream Ale
1D. American Wheat Beer

2.INTERNATIONAL LAGER
2A. International Pale Lager
2B. International Amber Lager
2C. International Dark Lager
2X. Mediterranean Lager*

3.CZECH LAGER
3A. Czech Pale Lager
3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
3C. Czech Amber Lager
3D. Czech Dark Lager

4.PALE MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER
4A. Munich Helles
4B. Festbier
4C. Helles Bock

5.PALE BITTER EUROPEAN BEER
5A. German Leichtbier
5B. Kölsch
5C. German Helles Exportbier
5D. German Pils

AMBER MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER
6A. Märzen
6B. Rauchbier
6C. Dunkles Bock

7.AMBER BITTER EUROPEAN BEER
7A. Vienna Lager
7B. Altbier

8.DARK EUROPEAN LAGER
8A. Munich Dunkel
8B. Schwarzbier

9.STRONG EUROPEAN BEER
9A. Doppelbock
9B. Eisbock
9C. Baltic Porter

10. GERMAN WHEAT BEER
10A. Weissbier
10B. Dunkles Weissbier
10C. Weizenbock

11.BRITISH BITTER
11A. Ordinary Bitter
11B. Best Bitter
11C. Strong Bitter

12.PALE COMMONWEALTH BEER
12A. British Golden Ale
12B. Australian Sparkling Ale
12C. English IPA

13.BROWN BRITISH BEER
13A. Dark Mild
13B. British Brown Ale
13C. English Porter

14.SCOTTISH ALE
14A. Scottish Light
14B. Scottish Heavy
14C. Scottish Export

15. IRISH BEER
15A. Irish Red Ale
15B. Irish Stout
15C. Irish Extra Stout

16. DARK BRITISH BEER
16A. Sweet Stout
16B. Oatmeal Stout
16C. Tropical Stout
16D. Foreign Extra Stout

***BBC-Specific Styles**

APPENDIX: COMPETITION STYLES

17.STRONG BRITISH ALE
17A. English Strong Ale
17B. Old Ale
17C. Wee Heavy
17D. English Barley Wine

18.PALE AMERICAN ALE
18A. Blonde Ale
18B. American Pale Ale
18X. Hazy Pale Ale*
18Y. Other Specialty Pale Ale (Milkshake, fruit & other)*

19.AMBER AND BROWN AMERICAN BEER
19A. American Amber Ale
19B. California Common
19C. American Brown Ale

20.AMERICAN PORTER AND STOUT
20A. American Porter
20B. American Stout
20C. Imperial Stout
20X. Pastry Stout*

21.IPA
21A. American IPA
21B. Specialty IPA
Specialty IPA (B1): Belgian IPA
Specialty IPA (B2): Black IPA
Specialty IPA (B3): Brown IPA
Specialty IPA (B4): Red IPA
Specialty IPA (B5): Rye IPA
Specialty IPA (B6): White IPA
Specialty IPA (B7): Brut IPA
Specialty IPA (B8) Other Specialty IPA (Milkshake, Fruit & Other)
21C. Hazy IPA
21X. Session IPA*

22. STRONG AMERICAN ALE
22A. Double IPA
22B. American Strong Ale
22C. American Barleywine
22D. Wheatwine
22X. Hazy DIPA*

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

24.BELGIAN ALE
24A. Witbier
24B. Belgian Pale Ale
24C. Bière de Garde

25.STRONG BELGIAN ALE
25A. Belgian Blond Ale
25B. Saison
25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale

26. MONASTIC ALE
26A. Belgian Single
26B. Belgian Dubbel
26C. Belgian Tripel
26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

27.HISTORICAL BEER
Historical Beer (A1): Kellerbier
Historical Beer (A2): Kentucky Common
Historical Beer (A3): Lichtenhainer
Historical Beer (A4): London Brown Ale
Historical Beer (A5) Piwo Grodziskie
Historical Beer (A6): Pre-Prohibition Lager
Historical Beer (A7): Pre-Prohibition Porter
Historical Beer (A8): Roggenbier
Historical Beer (A9): Sahti

***BBC-Specific Styles**

APPENDIX: COMPETITION STYLES

28.AMERICAN WILD ALE
28A. Brett Beer
28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer
28C. Wild Specialty Beer
28D. Straight Sour Beer

29.FRUIT BEER
29A. Fruit Beer
29B. Fruit and Spice Beer
29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
29D. Grape Ale

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

31.ALTERNATIVE FERMENTABLES BEER
31A. Alternative Grain Beer
31B. Alternative Sugar Beer

32.SMOKED BEER
32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer
32B. Specialty Smoked Beer

33.WOOD BEER
33X. Wood-Aged Beer*
33Y. Imperial Stout Wood-Aged Beer*

34.SPECIALTY BEER
34A. Commercial Specialty Beer
34B. Mixed-Style Beer
34C. Experimental Beer

X .LOCAL STYLES
X4. Catharina Sour (Brazilian)
X5. New Zealand Pilsner

Y. Non Alcoholic Beer
Y1. Non Alcoholic Beer*
Y2. Non Alcoholic Hoppy Beer*

***BBC-Specific Styles**

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info@barcelonabeerchallenge.com

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