



## ***SET OF REGULATIONS***

***Barcelona Beer Challenge 2025***

# *Introduction*

The ninth edition of beer contest Barcelona Beer Challenge (hereinafter BBC) is organized by the company Beer Events SL (hereinafter BE), dedicated to organizing beer themed events with the objective to spread beer culture, placing emphasis on its gastronomic and social side, thus promoting responsible consumption.

The main events organized by the company are the Barcelona Beer Festival, now in its 13th year as one of the leading craft beer festivals in southern Europe, and InnBrew: The Brewers Convention, the professional meeting point. Both proposals give support and reinforcement to the development of competitions, accompanied by a consistent media impact.

This set of regulations, as well as additional information regarding the BBC, is available at any time on the contest's website: <http://www.barcelonabeerchallenge.com/en>

You are also welcome to contact the contest organizers to answer any questions you may have at the following email address: [info@barcelonabeerchallenge.com](mailto:info@barcelonabeerchallenge.com)





## *Contest presentation:*

### Objectives

The BBC contest has, among others, the following objectives:

- ❖ To disseminate and give value to high quality beer.
- ❖ To promote quality in the beer sector, awarding a prestigious prize to those beers that meet high standards.
- ❖ To give visibility to the diverse range of established beer types
- ❖ To generate a context where breweries from all over the state come to compete, not only among themselves, but also with other international brewers.
- ❖ To promote the internationalization of local beer creations.
- ❖ To promote education and knowledge of quality beer to end consumers.
- ❖ To highlight and reflect trends in the brewing world, both nationally and internationally.
- ❖ To spread knowledge of the quantity and variety of existing brewers.
- ❖ To foster a culture of responsible beer consumption, highlighting the value of beer in a gastronomic environment.
- ❖ To create a seal that recognizes the quality of the beers that are worthy of it, which will in turn give the public an ability to steer their own consumption decisions.



## *Who can take part in the contest?*

- ❖ Breweries who wish to participate and who ensure compliance with current legislation in their corresponding countries in terms of the production and marketing of beer.
- ❖ Brands that produce beer in the facilities of a brewer that has the appropriate permissions to produce and market beer. Under no circumstances the producer may present a beer that he is brewing for another brand in his own name.

## *Registrations:*

Those interested in registering must fill in the form found on the contest's website: [www.barcelonabeerchallege.com](http://www.barcelonabeerchallege.com)

## The registration period ends on 24/01/2025

The prices of the inscription are detailed in the table below. The final cost will depend on the number of beers registered.

Number of beers registered	Total Price (excluding VAT)	Price per beer (excluding VAT)
Registration for 1 beers	120 €	120 €
Registration for 2 beers	180€	90 €
Registration for 3 beers	225 €	75€

From the fourth beer the extra cost will be 30€ / additional Beer



## *A limit of 15 registered beers per participating brewery is established.*

The organizers of the BBC will confirm the correct processing of the registration via email. Participation in the contest will be confirmed upon payment in full to BE (the organizing company) of the amount corresponding to the registration of the presented beers.

An invoice will be issued for the contestant with the fiscal data included on the registration form, and the participant is responsible for verifying the data provided in the aforementioned form is correct. The organization may verify such data, by legal means or through any actions it deems appropriate, if required.

## *Logistical Aspects*

### *Reception of registered beers*

The period for receiving samples will be between the dates indicated below (both days included).

Beers received outside this period will not be admitted to the contest, without the right to claim a refund of the registration fee.

START PERIOD FOR RECEIVING SAMPLES	END PERIOD FOR RECEIVING SAMPLES
03/02/2025	14/02/2025

The organization reserves the right to close registrations before the deadline if there are more than 1.500 references registered to participate prior to this date.



## *Samples needed for participation:*

For every beer registered into the contest, participants shall provide 4 samples for each type of beer.

## *Information about delivery*

We will communicate the beers reception address with the confirmation of the registration. The delivery of the beers submitted to the contest will be the responsibility of the participant.

**IMPORTANT:** Possible additional custom charges (non -EU beers) will be charged to the brewery. Any shipping, customs and taxes will be paid by sender).

### Our recommendations:

For breweries within the EU, based on previous experiences, it is recommended not to use the public postal service. We recommend to work with private transport companies that will ensure and take responsibility about the correct delivery.

For breweries outside the EU, once the pre-registration is done, the organization will contact the brewery to evaluate on a case-by-case, the best way to ensure a correct shipment as well as to inform about documentation requirements, additional costs and delays caused by the Spanish Customs.

The shipment must be accompanied by a proforma invoice stating: “Samples without commercial value”

The organization will not be responsible for any theft, lost, damages or delays arising in the process of delivering samples to the organization.

It's important to know that the organizers of the BBC will not admit samples sent in fully or partially damaged containers.



It is recommended that the packaging of the submitted beers is suitable for transport and guarantees delivery without incident.

Our recommendations: To avoid bottle damage, BBC recommends: wrap correctly, use a suitable box with good packaging material, and write down on the box “this side up” and “fragile”.

The BBC reserves the right to refuse samples in the event that, upon receipt of the beers, any irregularity is detected. The organization will notify participants of this with the objective of correcting the incidence(s) to the extent possible, and this may require participants to send new samples by urgent courier (and only if a reasonable timeframe is available).

## Control and storage of samples received

The organizer guarantees the optimal storage of the samples received to qualify for the contest, storing them in a safe place at a suitable temperature and in atmospheric conditions for the correct conservation of the beers.

BBC will order the samples according to the style declaration linked to it on the registration form.

Samples that arrive late or that have not been correctly registered or that don't correspond to the registered product will not be presented for the competition neither returned.

Upon receipt of samples, the organization will check that the samples follow the labeling regulations that correspond to the manufacturing regulations stipulated in the country of production. BBC reserves the right to refuse samples if these do not meet the outlined specifications.

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## *Organization :*

The organization of the BBC is made up of three differentiated bodies: a Steering Committee, a Technical Secretariat and the Jury, which will have the following functions.

### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body in the organization of the BBC. Its mission is to ensure the contest is conducted appropriately, as well as coordinating the different areas involved.

The Committee is made up of the Beer Events team (organizing team of the Barcelona Beer Festival)

The main functions and duties of the Steering Committee include:

- ❖ Design of the contest's strategic guidelines.
- ❖ Creation of the governing norms, which is formed by this set of regulations.
- ❖ Ensuring the proper development of the contest, in accordance with the governing regulations.
- ❖ Coordination of the different areas, especially the Jury and the Technical Secretariat.
- ❖ Coordination with the external actors involved in the different aspects of the contest (design, communications, etc.)
- ❖ Selection and appointment of the contest Jury.
- ❖ Analysis of the data on Jury assessments and proposal for winners.
- ❖ Collection of data, both statistical and non-quantifiable, and generation of conclusions for the beers registered

### **Technical Secretariat**

This body is responsible for carrying out all the necessary actions for the proper development of the contest by executing its strategic requirements. In particular, it monitors registration, billing, sample reception, production of the jury sessions and communications with all the agents involved.

Technical Secretariat: Anna Portavella Contact: [aportavella@barcelonabeerchallenge.com](mailto:aportavella@barcelonabeerchallenge.com)





## *Jury*

The BBC's organizers are committed to the professionalization of the sector, which is why the jury will be made up of only accredited judges with a BJCP certification, experience and/or regulated training related to beer tasting

Its function is, basically, to evaluate the registered beers in accordance with the parameters set out within these regulations.

No member of the jury will be able to participate in any evaluation in which they have any links or commercial interests with any of the beers evaluated.

## *Procedures*

### **Preliminary checks**

When the organization has ensured that the participants have strictly complied with the deadlines for registration, payment and the delivery of any registered beers, it shall proceed to evaluate them within the relevant category of competition, in accordance with the indications given by each participant at the time of the inscription.

It is recommended that participants carefully review the stylistic descriptions of the beers they are presenting. It must be assigned a style and sub-style set out in the standards of the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP).

The organization reserves the right not to accept a beer to the competition if the registered category differs with respect to how it is traded regularly.



## *Competition categories:*

Initially, Initially, 37 categories are opened that largely coincide with those included in the new BJCP regulation (2021) plus some open categories at the discretion of the organization based on its knowledge of the sector and beer reality. In those categories that receive more than 20 beers in competition, they will be divided into subcategories recognized in the same list and that the participants have already indicated in the registration.

The categories that present differences with respect to the 2021 regulation of the BJCP are:

18X. Hazy Pale Ale

18Y. Other Specialty Pale Ale (Milkshake, fruit & other)

20X. Pastry Stout

21B. Specialty IPA (X) Other Specialty IPA (Milkshake, Fruit & Other

21X. Session IPA

22X. Hazy DIPA

33X. Wood-Aged Beer

33Y. Imperial Stout Wood-Aged Beer

35. Catharina Sour (Brazilian)

36. Pacific Beer (SPONSOR BY AGRONETBREWING)

37. Non Alcoholic Beer

Note. We are going to evaluate according to the updated categories of the BJCP except ciders and mead, which are not accepted to participate.

BBC reserves the right to combine beer categories, if required by the circumstances of the contest.



## *Undertaking the evaluations*

The evaluation of the beers registered will be carried out between the 21, 22 and 23 of February 2025

The procedure planned for the evaluation is as follows:

- ❖ The beers are presented to the Jury anonymously by personnel assigned by the organizers.
- ❖ Each beer will have a reference number to be used by the organization to always identify it.
- ❖ The registered beers will be tasted comparing them to beers of the same style presented at the contest.
- ❖ The serving temperature will be adequate to ensure the proper taste and evaluation of the beers.
- ❖ The samples will be evaluated following the sections and criteria on the evaluation form that the BJCP includes, considering the characteristics of each style according to these standards.
- ❖ The members of the Jury will have adequate elements to wash their palate between each tasting at all times.
- ❖ Evaluations and scores for each registered beer will be treated as confidential information, guarded by the organization and access will only be granted to the breweries that request individual information of its beers. These data will be transmitted in summary format to each brewery.



*Competition system:*

Depending on the number of entries, each categories will be organized by different rounds.

The individual awards will be only in the final round (Final).

In the previous rounds (Semifinals and quarter-finals) won't be any awards, only 3 beers from the group will be chosen to move on to the next round.

Participans	Rounds
Up to 10	Final
From 11 to 30	Semifinal and Final
More tan 30	Quarter-finals, Semifinal and Final

Regardless of the number of phases, the first time a registered beer is evaluated by a panel of judges, they will make a numerical evaluation according to our own sheet following the BJCP score.

These results are binding to award medals or move on to the next round, but the points never will be added in the next round.



## *Awards:*

The contest foresees a series of individual awards for beers by category, and three overall prizes for the participating brewers.

### Individual Awards:

The best three beers in each BBC beer category will be awarded with the following awards:

- Gold medal
- Silver medal
- Bronze medal

The winners will be decided by the judges assigned in the evaluation of the corresponding final. In case it is considered that the beers in specific category do not reach high quality standards, the jury reserves the right to declare medals as non-awarded.

**PLATINUM AWARD:** A special prize called 'Platinum Medal' will be awarded to those beers that in the current edition win a Medal for the fifth time, regardless of the type of medals or editions that won the other four.





## *Global awards:*

### **Best Brewery award:**

This prize will be awarded the set of beers presented by the same brewer, and who obtains more points among all the beers, at the rate of:

- ❖ 2 points for a bronze medal
- ❖ 3 for a silver medal
- ❖ 5 for a gold medal



### **Best rookie brewery award:**

This award recognizes and visualizes the best Rookie Brewery (\*), The winner will obtain the highest sum of score associated with its medals under the same conditions as the prize for the best brewer described above.

(\*)Rookie Brewery: starts the commercialization of its beer and / or has inaugurated its first facilities after January 1st, 2022

In case of a tied vote, the Jury shall use the following criteria (in order and in both cases):

1. Highest number of gold medals.
2. Highest number of silver medals.
3. Best score obtained in the best beer.
4. Lower number of registered beers.
5. Draw in the same conditions among the tied brewers



## Molina for Brewers Innovation Award :

Thanks to Molina for Brewers that supports the brewer in his passion for craft beer, we organize, for the sixth year, an award that wants to recognize innovation in the creative process of brewing.

This innovation process will be determined through several aspects such as the choice of raw materials, the process of elaboration, production, sustainability and social responsibility and the recovery and reinvention of old styles. In summary, all aspects that contribute innovation and quality to the beer presented will be valued.

Each participating brewer will be able to choose one of their registered beers and will explain in an annexed text in the inscription,

In a first phase, the Steering Committee will select 5 finalists that will be presented to a Jury with specific knowledge in Beer Innovation that will choose a single winner of the recognition.



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PREMI INNOVACIÓ  
MOLINA FOR BREWERS



## ***Results:***

In all cases, the final decision on the allocation of prizes will be unappealable.

The results obtained in the evaluation of the presented beers will be notified by email.

The awards will be held at a public ceremony, within the framework of the 2025 InnBrew: The Brewers Convention and during the thirteenth edition of the Barcelona Beer Festival 2025.

The organization of the BBC will carry out a thorough communication on the operation of the contest and the awarded beers through press releases, social networks, Barcelona Beer Challenge's website, other digital media (blogs, webs, etc.) and media agencies contracted for this purpose.

Once the winners of each award have been determined, the winners will be given:

An accreditation trophy for each of the prizes awarded.

A logo (for each award-winning beer) insertable on: labels, digital platforms, promotional materials, website, etc.

The distinctive seal will provide information and help to make the award-winning beers visible, the year of the BBC edition will be included, and use of this seal is prohibited without the aforementioned indication. The organization reserves the right to withdraw the title granted if this requirement is not met.





## *Other aspects of the regulation*

- ❖ The organization could contemplate evaluating the veracity of the awarded beer(s) by comparing them with another sample of the same beer. In case of serious doubt or proof of substantial recognizable difference between such beers, the organization reserves the right to withdraw the awarded medals. In this sense, the legal services responsible for this type of fraud would be notified and the producers involved will be informed and expelled from the competition.
- ❖ Surplus beer samples that have not been used during the development of the contest will not be returned to the producer or distributor and can be used by the organization for promotional or training activities carried out by the contest or by companies of the group.
- ❖ Our organization will not be liable if the contest is cancelled due to circumstances that are beyond the control of our organization and that unexpectedly arise, and no compensation will be paid to the participants. In such circumstances, we reserve the right to cancel the contest and/or change the date if we deem it justifiably necessary, and therefore stipulate that we are not liable in such case, nor will there be compensation nor return of the samples received.
- ❖ The formalization of the registration (by completing the form available on the website and the payment of the corresponding fee) means the express and unconditional acceptance of these regulations.
- ❖ In case of possible lawsuits against the organization, the Law and Jurisdiction of application will be that of the courts of Barcelona.



*Annexed:*

*Styles for the BBC*





### **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

### **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

### **6. AMBER MALTY EUROPEAN LA**

- 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



### **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 (A): Belgian IPA
- Specialty IPA (B): Black IPA
- Specialty IPA (C): Brown IPA
- Specialty IPA (D): Red IPA
- Specialty IPA (E): Rye IPA
- Specialty IPA (F): White IPA
- Specialty IPA (K): Brut IPA
- Specialty IPA (X) 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 (A): Kellerbier  
Historical Beer (B): Kentucky Common

Historical Beer (C): Lichtenhainer  
Historical Beer (D): London Brown Ale

Historical Beer (E) Piwo Grodziskie

Historical Beer (F): Pre-Prohibition Lager  
Historical Beer (G): Pre-Prohibition Porter  
Historical Beer (H): Roggenbier  
Historical Beer (I): Sahti

### **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

35. Catharina Sour (Brazilian)

36. Pacific Beer (SPONSORED BY AGRONETBREWING)

37. Non Alcoholic Beer



More information:

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