

2026 NC Brewers Cup Competition (NCBC)

Entry Registration Guide

Use this Guide to determine the best registration categories for your competition entries. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Parker at lisa@ncbeer.org

1. Entries will be judged according to the [2026 GABF Beer Style Guidelines](#) in accordance with the table below.
2. Entries will be accepted for the 40 NCBC categories listed below. *The NCCBG reserves the right to combine categories for medal distribution, based on the number of entries received.*
3. Regardless of NCBC medal category, each entry will be judged blind according to the 2026 GABF Competition Style Guidelines for the associated NCBC subcategory entered into.
4. Entries will additionally be accepted for a 40th category: "NC Home-Grown": To qualify for this category, 55% of the beer's dry-weight ingredients must be sourced from North Carolina produced products.
5. Entry limit: A brewery can submit a **maximum of 10 entries** into the competition. (Breweries must enter a minimum of 6 entries to be considered for NC Brewery of the Year or NC New Brewery of the Year.)
6. Breweries may submit the same beer brand into multiple categories. *(For example, if a beer is entered into a one NCBC category, but also meets the definition of the "NC Home-Grown" category.)* Entrants must still submit two (2) containers for each entry registration.
7. If entering an NA beer into any category, notify [Shannon Taylor Wilder](#) in advance to confirm that the beer has been pasteurized. Non-pasteurized NA beers will not be accepted into the competition.
8. Breweries who are not a member of the NC Craft Brewers Guild will not be eligible for recognition as NC Brewery of the Year or NC New Brewery of the Year.
9. **Please avoid any reference to brewery name, brand, beer name, or locale in "Entry Notes".**

NCBC Medal Category	NCBC Subcategory	2026 Brewers Association Style Category
1. British Pale & Bitter Ale	1A	69a. Ordinary Bitter
	1B	69b. Special Bitter or Best Bitter
	1C	70a. English-Style Extra Special Bitter
	1D	69c. English-Style Summer Ale
	1E	69d. Classic English-Style Pale Ale
	1F	70b. English-Style India Pale Ale

2. Scottish & Irish Beer	2A	71a. Scottish-Style Light Ale
	2B	71b. Scottish-Style Heavy Ale
	2C	71c. Scottish-Style Export Ale
	2D	72. Irish-Style Red Ale
	2E	87a. Unpeated / 87b. Peated Scotch Ale
3. British-Style Porter & Brown Ales	3A	17e. English-Style Pale Mild Ale
	3B	17f. English-Style Dark Mild Ale
	3C	73. English-Style Brown Ale
	3D	82a. Brown Porter
4. American-Style Porter & Brown Ales	4A	81. American-Style Brown Ale
	4B	83. Robust Porter
5. American-Style Amber/Red Ale	5A	96. American Amber/Red Ale
6. Stouts	6A	82b. Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout
	6B	85b. Export Stout
	6C	84a. Sweet Stout or Cream Stout
	6D	84b. Oatmeal Stout
	6E	23b. American-Style Black Ale
	6F	85a. American-Style Stout
7. Imperial Stouts & Porters	7A	11a. Dessert or Pastry Beer
	7B	19a. American-Style Imperial Porter
	7C	86a. British-Style Imperial Stout
	7D	86b. American-Style Imperial Stout
8. Strong Ale & Imperial IPA	8A	87c. Old Ale
	8B	87d. Strong Ale

	8C	88b. American-Style Barley Wine Ale
	8D	88a. British-Style Barley Wine Ale
	8E	97a. Double Hopy Red Ale
	8F	97b. Imperial Red Ale
	8G	88c. American-Style Wheat Wine Ale
	8H	21b. Other Strong Beer
	8 I	98. Imperial India Pale Ale
	8J	99. Juicy or Hazy Imperial India Pale Ale
9. Session IPA & International Style Pale Ale or IPA	9A	18. Session India Pale Ale
	9B	89a. International-Style Pale Ale
	9C	89b. Classic Australian-Style Pale Ale
	9D	89c. Australian-Style Pale Ale
	9E	90. New Zealand-Style Pale Ale
	9F	91. New Zealand India Pale Ale
10. American Pale Ale	10A	92a. American Pale Ale
	10B	94. American-Style Strong Pale Ale
11. American-Style IPA	11A	100. American-Style India Pale Ale
12. Juicy or Hazy Pale Ale	12A	93. Juicy or Hazy Pale Ale
	12B	95. Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale
13. Juicy or Hazy IPA	13A	101. Juicy or Hazy India Pale Ale
14. West Coast-Style IPA	14A	102. West Coast-Style India Pale Ale
15. European Hybrid Styles	15A	62. German-Style Koelsch
	15B	66a. German-Style Altbier

16. European Wheat (and Related) Beer	16A	67a. South German-Style Hefeweizen
	16B	67b. South German-Style Kristal Weizen
	16C	17d. German-Style Leichtes Weizen
	16D	67c. South German-Style Bernsteinfarbenes Weizen
	16E	67d. South German-Style Dunkel Weizen
	16F	20c. South German-Style Weizenbock
	16G	12b. German-Style Rye Ale
	16H	74. Belgian-Style Witbier
17. Belgian Ales	17A	17b. Belgian-Style Table Beer
	17B	17c. Belgian-Style Session Ale
	17C	66c. Belgian-Style Speciale Belge
	17D	76a. Belgian-Style Blonde Ale
	17E	76c. Other Belgian-Style Abbey Ale
	17F	22b. Specialty - Hybrid/Crossover Beer
18. Saison	18A	75a. Classic Saison
	18B	75b. Specialty Saison
	18C	66b. French-Style Biere de Garde
19. Belgian Strong Ale / Monastic Ale	19A	78a. Belgian-Style Strong Blonde Ale
	19B	78b. Belgian-Style Strong Dark Ale
	19C	78c. Belgian-Style Quadrupel
	19D	76b. Belgian-Style Dubbel
	19E	77. Belgian-Style Tripel
20. German-Style Pilsener	20A	50. German-Style Pilsener

21. Czech-Style Pale Lager & Italian-Style Pilsener	21A	51. Czech-Style Pale Lager
	21B	52. Italian-Style Pilsener
22. German-Style Oktoberfest/Festbier	22A	54b. German-Style Festbier
23. German-Style Maerzen	23A	56. German-Style Maerzen
24. Light International Lager	24A	39a. International Light Lager
	24B	39b. German-Style Leichtbier
	24C	38a. American-Style Light Lager
	24D	38b. Contemporary American-Style Light Lager
	24E	40. Mexican-Style Light Lager
25. Pale European Lager	25A	53. Munich-Style Helles
	25B	54a. Dortmunder/European-Style Export
26. Amber European Lager	26A	55. Vienna-Style Lager
	26B	57a. Franconian-Style Rotbier
	26C	57b. Czech-Style Amber Lager
27. Dark European Lager & German-Style Bock	27A	58. Munich-Style Dunkel
	27B	59. German-Style Schwarzbier
	27C	60b. European-Style Dark Lager
	27D	19b. Baltic-Style Porter
	27E	60c. Czech-Style Dark Lager
	27F	61a. Traditional German-Style Bock
	27G	61b. German-Style Heller Bock/Maibock
	27H	20a. German-Style Doppelbock

	27 I	20b. German-Style Eisbock
28. North American-Style Lager	28A	41. Mexican-Style Pale Lager
	28B	42. American-Style Lager
	28C	43. Contemporary American-Style Lager
	28D	44. Rice Lager
29. Pilsner-Style & Hoppy Lager	29A	46a. American-Style Pilsener
	29B	46b. Contemporary American-Style Pilsener
	29C	45. International-Style Pilsener
	29D	47a. American-Style India Pale Lager
	29E	48. West Coast-Style Pilsener
30. North American-Style Amber & Dark Lager	30A	49a. American-Style Amber Lager
	30B	49b. California Common Beer
	30C	49c. American-Style Maerzen/Okttoberfest
	30D	60a. American-Style Dark Lager
	30E	57c. Mexican-Style Amber Lager
	30F	60d. Mexican-Style Dark Lager
31. Other American Pale Lagers & Ales	31A	1. American-Style Wheat Beer
	31B	21a. American-Style Malt Liquor
	31C	63. American Cream Ale
	31D	68. Golden or Blonde Ale
32. Fruit Beer <i>* You may use entry notes to specify the type of fruit used in this category.</i>	32A	2. American Fruit Beer
	32B	3. Fruit Wheat Beer
	32C	80a. Belgian-Style Fruit Beer

33. Sour Fruit or Field Beer <i>* Use entry notes to specify the type of fruit used in this category.</i>	33A	29b. Fruited American Sour
	33B	65b. Contemporary Gose
	33C	79d. Contemporary Belgian-Style Spontaneous Fermented Ale
	33D	80b. Belgian-Style Fruit Lambic
34. Coffee Beer <i>* You may use entry notes to specify the base beer style, type or form of coffee used or other factors which influence perceived sensory outcomes.</i>	34A	9. Coffee Beer
35. Field & Spiced Beers <i>* You may use entry notes to specify the underlying beer style upon which the entry is based, type or form of herb(s) or spice(s), vegetable(s), type of chilis, and/or chocolate used or other factors which influence perceived sensory outcomes.</i> <i>* Well-known spice blends are accepted, such as pie spice, curry powder, chili powder.</i>	35A	4. Field Beer
	35B	5. Pumpkin or Pumpkin Spice Beer
	35C	6. Chili Beer
	35D	7. Herb and Spice Beer
	35E	8. Chocolate Beer
36. American & European-Style Sour Ales / Brett, Mixed Culture & Wild Ales <i>* You may use entry notes to specify the underlying beer style upon which the entry is based, or other information unique to the entry such as type of Brett(s), yeast/bacteria, and/or other culture(s) used.</i>	36A	24b. Ginjo Beer or Sake-Yeast Beer
	36B	29a. American-Style Sour Ale
	36C	30. Brett Beer
	36D	31. Mixed-Culture Brett Beer
	36E	64a. Berliner-Style Weisse
	36F	65a. Leipzig-Style Gose
	36G	79a. Belgian-Style Lambic

	36H	79b. Belgian-Style Gueuze
	36 I	79c. Belgian-Style Flanders Oud Bruin or Oud Red Ale
	36J	79e. Wild Beer
37. Wood and Barrel-Aged Beer <i>* Use entry notes to specify the underlying beer style upon which the entry is based, length of time aged, type of wood or barrel, char level or previous liquids held by the wood, ingredients or other processing which influence perceived sensory outcomes.</i>	37A	32. Wood- and Barrel-Aged Beer
	37B	35b. Wood- and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer
38. Specialty Beer <i>* Use entry notes to specify an underlying beer style(s) upon which the entry is based (if such style(s) is apparent), or other information unique to the entry such as ingredients or processing which influence perceived sensory outcomes.</i>	38A	12a. Rye Beer
	38B	13. Honey Beer
	38C	17a. Session Beer
	38D	22. Specialty Beer (Multi-Adjunct or Hybrid/Crossover)
	38E	23a. Specialty India Pale Ale
	38F	24a. Experimental Beer
	38G	26. Classic Gluten-Free Beer 27. Hoppy Gluten-Free Beer 28. Specialty Gluten-Free Beer
	38H	87e. Aged Beer
	38 I	103. Fresh Hop Beer
39. Historic Beer & Smoke Beer	39A	25a. Historical Beer
	39B	25b. Kentucky Common Beer
	39C	25c. Grodziskie
	39D	25d. Adambier
	39E	25e. Dutch-Style Kuyt Beer

	39F	25f. Finnish-Style Sahti
	39G	25g. Swedish-Style Gotlandsdricke
	39H	25h. Breslau-Style Schoeps
	39I	36. Kellerbier or Zwickelbier
	39J	37a. Smoke Porter
	39K	37b. Bamberg-Style Weiss Rauchbier
	39L	37c. Bamberg-Style Helles Rauchbier
	39M	37d. Bamberg-Style Maerzen Rauchbier
	39N	37e. Bamberg-Style Bock Rauchbier
40. NC Home-Grown 55% of the beer's dry-weight ingredients must be sourced from NC produced products.	40A	NC Home-Grown