

BECOMING A CERTIFIED BEER JUDGE - 2017



TOPICS

- What is the Beer Judge Certification Program
- Steps to Becoming a Certified Beer Judge
- Examination Process
- Judging Ranks
- How to Gain Experience Points



WHAT IS THE BEER JUDGE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM?



Non-Profit focused on beer appreciation and literacy.



Creates and maintains de facto beer, mead, and cider style guidelines



Sets standards for, and administers, testing for beer judge certifications

- Study Guides
- Online Testing & Tasting Exam

WHAT IS THE BEER JUDGE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM?

BJCP GUIDELINE OVERVIEW

- Categorizes beers, meads and ciders by style



- Provides guidelines for what the aroma, appearance, flavor, and mouthfeel and overall impression of a beer, mead, or cider should be.



- Provides commercial examples of each style for comparison purposes



STEPS TO BECOMING A CERTIFIED BEER JUDGE

1. Study the BJCP Study Guide & Style Guidelines



2. Pass Online **Entrance Exam**

3. Pass **Beer Judging Examination**

4. **Written Proficiency Examination**
for advancement through judge ranks.

Exam Structure

<http://dev.bjcp.org/exam-certification/exam-program-overview/bjcp-exam-structure/>

ONLINE BJCP ENTRANCE EXAM

- \$10 for one attempt or \$20 for three tries (extended time option available)
- 180 Question 60 Minute Online Exam
- Need to score 70% or higher to pass
- A 20 question practice exam is available
- You can protest a low score if you believe there was an error scoring your test

TOPICS

- Technical aspects of brewing, ingredients, brewing process and possible faults
- World beer styles, including characteristics, history, ingredients and brewing techniques
- The purpose of the BJCP and the criteria for the judging ranks.
- Judging procedures and ethics

BJCP BEER JUDGING EXAMINATION

- Pass the Entrance Exam before signing up for the Judging Exam
- In-Person judging of 6 Beers in 90 Minutes (15 Minutes Per Beer) - \$40 & \$15 for retries
- **No style guidelines or cell phones** can be used during the exam
- Your judging will be compared to nationally ranked judges (called Proctoring)
- Limited availability and you may have to travel to the testing location
- See Judging Exam Schedules on BJCP Site: <https://www.bjcp.org/exams.php>

TOPICS

- Aroma
- Mouthfeel
- Completeness & Quality of Feedback
- Appearance
- Overall Impression
- Style Knowledge
- Flavor
- Scoring Accuracy

BJCP BEER JUDGING EXAMINATION

The Scoresheet

Aroma (as appropriate for style) _____/12
Comment on malt, hops, esters, and other aromatics

Appearance (as appropriate for style) _____/3
Comment on color, clarity, and head (retention, color, and texture)

Flavor (as appropriate for style) _____/20
Comment on malt, hops, fermentation characteristics, balance, finish/aftertaste, and other flavor characteristics

Mouthfeel (as appropriate for style) _____/5
Comment on body, carbonation, warmth, creaminess, astringency, and other palate sensations

Overall Impression _____/10
Comment on overall drinking pleasure associated with entry, give suggestions for improvement

Total _____/50

SCORING GUIDE

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Outstanding | (45 - 50): World-class example of style. |
| Excellent | (38 - 44): Exemplifies style well, requires minor fine-tuning. |
| Very Good | (30 - 37): Generally within style parameters, some minor flaws. |
| Good | (21 - 29): Misses the mark on style and/or minor flaws. |
| Fair | (14 - 20): Off flavors/aromas or major style deficiencies. Unpleasant. |
| Problematic | (00 - 13): Major off flavors and aromas dominate. Hard to drink. |

BJCP BEER JUDGING EXAMINATION SCORING

6 Beers for a possibility of 100 points per beer

SCORING ACCURACY

20 points relative to the Proctoring Judges

Variance from Consensus	Points/Beer
0	20
1.5	19
2.5	18
3.5	17
4.5	16
5.5	15
6	14
6.5	13
7	12
8	11
9	10
10	9

Average participant scores versus average proctors scores can also be factored.

SCORESHEET

80 points awarded as follows:

- Perception (20pts) - Finding Flaws/Errors
- Descriptive Ability (20pts) - Terminology
- Feedback (20pts) - Useful/Constructive
- Completeness/Communication (20pts) - Legibility

Scoring Guide

https://www.bjcp.org/docs/Scoring_Guide.pdf

BJCP WRITTEN PROFICIENCY EXAM

The **Beer Written Exam** is required for anyone wishing to advance to the *National* rank or higher. This test consists of 20 true-false questions and five essay questions. This examination must be completed in 90 minutes.

Online or in person???

JUDGING RANKS

Determined by both your exam score and your experience points

Rank	Exam Score	Minimum Experience
Recognized	Any Passing	0
Certified	70%	5
National	80%	20
Master	90%	40

50% of experience points must come from judging

Other Ranks

Apprentice: For those that fail the exam. Must pass within 2 years of failing

Honorary Master is temporarily bestowed on judges who serve as operatives of the program (Regional Director, Exam Director, Program Administrator, etc.)

Grand Master can be earned by Master judges who volunteer service to the BJCP.

HOW TO GAIN EXPERIENCE POINTS

# of Entries	Organizer	Staff*	Judge
1 - 49	2.0	1	1.5
50 - 99	2.5	2	2.0
100 - 149	3.0	3	2.5
150 - 199	3.5	4	3.0
200 - 299	4.0	5	3.5
300 - 399	4.5	6	4.0
400 - 499	5.0	7	4.5
500 - 599	6.0 Max	8	5.5 Max
		+1 staff point for each additional 100 entries	

- Staff points are the total for all event staff.
- For each 100 entries over 500 one additional Staff Point may be awarded.
- No single person can receive more total points than the Organizer
- Organizer Points are capped at 6, regardless of competition size.

REFERENCES

- **Wikipedia:** *Beer Judge Certification Program:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_Judge_Certification_Program
- BJCP Course Catalog: <https://bjcp.coursewebs.com/cart/pageCatalog.aspx>
- BJCP 2015 Beer Style Guidelines: https://www.bjcp.org/docs/2015_Guidelines_Beer.pdf
- BJCP Exam Schedule: <https://www.bjcp.org/exams.php>
- BJCP Prep Course by Henrique Boaventura: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5M_4Ifc82ECBHdN0Jk3rle_5qUpXyow5
- 2015 BJCP Exam Scoring Guide: https://www.bjcp.org/docs/Scoring_Guide.pdf
- BJCP Exam Structure: <http://dev.bjcp.org/exam-certification/exam-program-overview/bjcp-exam-structure/>