2026 Entry Handbook

CALIFORNIA
MID·STATE
FAIR

The California Mid-State Fair Home Brew Competition is for amateur beer makers. Giving them the opportunity to showcase their beer and receive great feedback to better their hobby.

Chief Judge – Jason Affourtit
Lead Organization - California Mid-State Fair

2025 BEST OF AWARDS

Best of Show: Kelly Beaubien, San Miguel, Dark European Lager - Schwarzbier
Reserve Best of Show: Conner Medeiros, Creston, IPA – Hazy IPA

GENERAL RULES

1. This competition is American Homebrewers Association (AHA)/Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) sanctioned and open to amateur homebrewers age 21 or older, **who reside in either San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara County.**
2. Please indicate the proper class when registering the style of beer to ensure proper judging.
3. Registration is to be done online https://cmsfw.fairwire.com/
4. Entries must be received between the dates allotted. Any entry received after the deadline will not be judged or returned.
5. This competition uses BJCP Style Guidelines. Consult the guidelines to determine the best fit for each entry.
6. Please fill out the entry forms completely. Be meticulous about noting any special ingredients that must be specified per the guidelines. Failure to note such ingredients may impact the judges' scoring of your entry.
7. **Cider Entries:** Please disclose Carbonation, Sweetness and Any Special Ingredients in description Field. Specialty Ciders - Please add Gravity and Alcohol %.
8. Each entry consists of two (2) up to 12 oz. bottles that are devoid of all identifying information, including labels and embossing. Cans will also be accepted. Printed caps are allowed but must be blacked out completely.
9. 12oz brown glass bottles are preferred; however, green and clear glass will be accepted. 12- and 16-ounce cans will also be accepted. Large format bottles and swing-top bottles will not be accepted. Bottles will not be returned to contest entrants.
10. Print out entry receipt and rubber band around each bottle accordingly. NO LABELS or other distinctive markings (embossed bottles, etc.) may be used on bottles or cans. Non-compliant entries may be rejected.
11. Six (6) Entries maximum per Exhibitor, and no more than three (3) entries per class. Limited to the first 75 entries registered.
12. Due to health and safety regulations, upon submission to the contest, all entries become the property of the California Mid-State Fair and not returned to entrant.
13. The competition organizers are not responsible for mis-categorized entries, mailed entries that are not received by the entry deadline, or entries that arrived damaged.
14. The competition organizers reserve the right to combine styles for judging as needed depending upon the quantity and quality of entries.
15. Score sheets will be mailed to exhibitors with ribbons (if applicable) in a timely manner after judging.
16. Each exhibitor can purchase up to TWO (2) $8 one-day admission tickets. They will be available to purchase via our online registration site. They can be used by anyone and are non-refundable.
17. This competition will adhere to the State Rules of the California Department of Food & Agriculture Fairs & Expositions Branch. State Rules for California Fairs

ONLINE REGISTRATION DUE BY: FRIDAY, MAY 1
ENTRY FEE: $7.00 PER ENTRY
Enter on-line at http://cmsfw.fairwire.com/ Entry fees are non-refundable.

PHYSICAL BEER ENTRIES RECEIVED:
DELIVERY DATES, LOCATIONS & TIMES

Monday, May 4 TO Friday, May 8
Paso Robles Event Center
2198 Riverside Ave
Paso Robles, CA 93446
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

OR

Tuesday, May 5 TO Sunday, May 10
Humdinger Brewing
855 Capitolio Way
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

For questions, please contact:
California Mid-State Fair
exhibits@midstatefair.com

Special Thanks to Humdinger Brewing for their support:

Divisions and Classes

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 - Kolsch
  5C - German Helles Exportbier
  5D - German Pils
6 - Amber Malty European Lager
  6A - Marzen
  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 - British Strong Ale
  17B - Old Ale
  17C - Wee Heavy
  17D - English Barleywine
18 - Pale American Ale
  18A - Blond Ale
  18B - American Pale Ale
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
21 - IPA
  21A - American IPA
  21B – Specialty IPA
  21C - Hazy IPA
22 - Strong American Ale
  22A - Double IPA
  22B - American Strong Ale
  22C - American Barleywine
  22D - Wheatwine
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 - Biere 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
  27A - Kellerbier
  27B - Kentucky Common
  27C - Lichtenhainer
  27D - London Brown Ale
  27E - Piwo Grodziskie
  27F - Pre-Prohibition Lager
  27G - Pre-Prohibition Porter
  27H - Roggenbier
  27I - 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
  33A - Wood-Aged Beer
  33B - Specialty Wood-Aged Beer
34 - Specialty Beer
  34A - Clone Beer
  34B - Mixed-Style Beer
  34C - Experimental Beer
C1 - Traditional Cider
  C1A – Common Cider
  C1B - Heirloom Cider
  C1C – English Cider
  C1D – French Cider
  C1E – Spanish Cider
C2 – Strong Cider
  C2A - New England Cider
  C2B - Applewine
  C2C – Ice Cider
  C2D – Fire Cider
C3 – Specialty Cider
  C3A – Fruit Cider
  C3B – Spiced Cider
  C3C – Experimental Cider
C4 - Perry
  C4A – Common Perry
  C4B – Heirloom Perry
  C4C – Ice Perry
  C4D – Experimental Perry