



**SAMUEL  
ADAMS**

Special thanks to Ninkasi Sponsor Boston Beer

In 2010, the National Homebrew Competition (NHC) had a record 6,287 entries; the largest beer competition in the world! With the recent growth in homebrewing, we expect even more entries for the 2011 NHC. A total of exactly 80,500 homebrews have been judged in the 32 years of this competition. This competition is an enormous undertaking, which would not be possible without the tremendous support we get from the competition sponsors, volunteers, judges, and stewards whose hard work and enthusiasm for homebrewing has made the competition a success year after year.

### **New For 2011**

Shortly after the conclusion of the 2010 NHC, the American Homebrewers Association (AHA) Governing Committee's Competition Sub-Committee (visit [AHA Governing Committee](#)) began evaluating the competition in an effort to improve it. Based on input received from NHC entrants, judges, and organizers, the sub-committee has enacted two rule changes for 2011:

- **Judging Centers** – In 2011, there are no pre-defined regions in the US to which you must enter. Instead, you must choose one of nine Judging Centers to which you will send all your entries. Canadian entries must still be submitted to the ALES Home Brew Open competition.
  - Saratoga Springs, NY
  - Indianapolis, IN
  - Nashville, TN
  - Madison, WI
  - Fort Worth, TX
  - Denver, CO
  - Seattle, WA
  - Lodi, CA
  - San Diego, CA

You must choose your Judging Center when you register your entries online. You can only enter and send your entries to one Judging Center. Each Judging Center has a 750 entry limit. Once a Judging Center has reached the 750 maximum, no more entries will be allowed for that Judging Center. If you register your entries with one Judging Center and later try to add more entries after the Judging Center has hit the 750 limit, you will not be able to register the additional entries.

- **Bottle Requirements** – The bottle requirements have changed slightly for 2011. Bottles must contain a minimum of 10 oz and must fit in a standard case box slot. The measurements of a standard case box slot are 2.75 inches L x 2.75 in W x 9 in H (7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). See **What kind of bottle is required?** for the full description of the bottle requirements for 2011.

### **Important Web Addresses**

Listed alphabetically, these are the links embedded within this document.

- AHA Governing Committee  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/membership/aha-governing-committee](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/membership/aha-governing-committee)
- AHA Membership  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/membership/renew-or-join](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/membership/renew-or-join)
- AHA Registered Club List  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/directories/find-a-club](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/directories/find-a-club)
- Beer Judge Certification Program  
[www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org)
- Canada ALES Competition  
[www.alesclub.com](http://www.alesclub.com)
- “How to Pack Your Beer” Zymurgy article  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/6353/How\\_to\\_Pack\\_Your\\_Beer.pdf](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/6353/How_to_Pack_Your_Beer.pdf)
- NHC Entry Shipping/Drop-off  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/participate/entry-shipping-drop-off](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/participate/entry-shipping-drop-off)
- NHC Judging Center Locator Map  
[http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/6561/2011\\_MAP.pdf](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/6561/2011_MAP.pdf)
- NHC Sponsors  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/competition-information/competition-sponsors](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/competition-information/competition-sponsors)
- Online Entry Registration  
<http://www.brewingcompetition.com/NHC/nhc.php>
- Volunteering to Help  
[www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/participate/volunteering](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/participate/volunteering)

## **PART I – How to Enter This Competition**

### **1. What kind of bottle is required?**

BEER, MEAD, and CIDER entries must be in bottles that hold a minimum of 10 ounces in volume, and that will fit in a standard case box slot. The measurements of a standard case box slot are 2.75 inches long x 2.75 inches wide x 9 inches high (7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles may be of any color and must be free of ink, paint, or paper labeling other than competition entry labels. Obliterate any lettering or graphics on the cap with a permanent black marker.

Bottles with Grölsch-type swing tops and 22 oz Bomber bottles are not allowed.

Corked bottles and odd-shaped bottles are acceptable as long as they can fit in a standard case box slot (2.75 inches L x 2.75 in W x 9 in H; 7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles with raised lettering are acceptable if they fit in a standard case box slot.

Bottles not meeting the above requirements will be **disqualified**.

## **2. How many bottles do I need?**

Send one (1) bottle for each entry competing in the First Round. Three (3) additional bottles will be required for each entry that advances to the Final Round competition in June.

## **3. What are the entry fees?**

For **U.S. and international entries** (except Canada), AHA members pay US\$9 per entry; non-members pay US\$14 per entry.

- **AHA Membership:** AHA members receive a US\$5 discount from the non-member entry fee. If you would like the entry fee discount, please renew or join the AHA when you pay for your entries. The discount will be applied to your entry fees during checkout.
- **Online Payment:** Entry fees (and if applicable, AHA membership dues) **must** be paid online using a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express card at the time you register your entries online.
- **Final Round:** There is no additional fee for entries advancing to the Final Round.

**Canadian entries** are submitted to the 2011 ALES Home Brew Open (NHC Canadian Regional Qualifier) competition, hosted by the [Ales & Lagers Enthusiasts of Saskatchewan \(ALES Club\)](#) for which the fees are CA\$5 per entry.

- Make checks out to **ALES Club**.
- Canadian entries advancing to the NHC Final Round will require additional fees. Canadian entrants advancing to the Final Round will receive entry instructions via email.

## **4. When are the entry deadlines?**

- **U.S. and International First Round entries** must be received at the appropriate Judging Center between **Monday, March 21 and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2011**.
- **First Round CANADIAN entries** are due by **Thursday, April 7, 2011**.
- **Final Round** entries must be received at the between **Monday, May 23, and 5 p.m. and Monday, June 6, 2011**. If your entry advances to the Final Round, additional instructions will be mailed to you by the third week of May.

## 5. How do I enter?

### U.S. and International Entries

- (a) **Register** each entry online using the [Online Entry Registration](#) system (available in mid-February 2011), creating a login, and entering the information about your entries.
- (b) **Choose a Judging Center** for your entries. You must send all of your entries to the same Judging Center. There are nine Judging Centers in the US from which to choose. See [Entry Shipping/Drop-Off](#) for the Judging Center locations or refer to the map with the information in the March/April 2011 issue of *Zymurgy* and [online](#).
- (c) **Entry Cap** – To ensure the integrity of the judging, each Judging Center is capped at a maximum of 750 entries. If the cap is reached for a Judging Center, there will be no more entries accepted for that Judging Center. If the Judging Center you wanted to send your entries to is closed, you must choose a different Judging Center to which to send your entries. It will not be possible for entries to be registered in a Judging Center location once the entry cap has been reached.
- (c) **Pay for AHA membership.**

If you are joining the AHA or renewing your membership to take advantage of the entry fee discount, **pay online** when you check out and the member discount for your entry fees will be automatically applied to your bill.
- (d) **Pay for your entries.**

**Pay online** for AHA membership and your entries when you have registered the entries you are sending to the competition.
- (e) **Print the labels** for your entries. Attach the labels to each bottle using a rubber band; **do not attach the bottle label with glue or tape**. Your entry will be **disqualified** if you use glue or tape to secure the label to the bottle.
- (f) **Pack your bottles carefully.** See (See [Part III, Section H](#) for Packing and Shipping hints.)
- (g) **Drop Off or Ship your entries** to the appropriate address given on the Judging Center Locator Map found in the March/April 2011 *Zymurgy*. Do NOT send entries to a Judging Center other than the one you chose when you registered your entries. Judging Centers cannot acknowledge receipt of entries – arrange for a return receipt with your shipping company, if you wish to confirm delivery of your package. Packages with postage due or C.O.D. charges will be returned to sender.

**DO NOT SHIP YOUR ENTRIES VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.**

### Canadian Entrants

Please see [ALES club](#) for entry details.

## 6. Which category do I enter?

Enter your brew in the category and subcategory where you feel it will perform best. Judges do not see your entry form. Judges or organizers will not classify or reclassify your entry. The AHA National Homebrew Competition uses the **Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) Style Guidelines for Beer, Mead and Cider 2008 Edition**. A downloadable version of the complete style descriptions is available on the [BJCP website](#).

## 7. Are there entry limitations?

(a) Entrants may only submit one entry per subcategory. **For categories that have no subcategories (Categories 20 and 23), you may only submit one entry. An entrant may be an Additional Brewer for an entry in a subcategory they have already entered as the main brewer (e.g. John Doe enters an American Pale Ale, Category 10A, and is also the Additional Brewer on an American Pale Ale submitted by Jane Smith).**

(b) Your homebrew cannot have been brewed on equipment used to brew beverages for any commercial purpose, whether for commercial research, production or any other purpose, including equipment at brew-on-premises establishments.

(c) You must give the names of all brewers who helped in the brewing.

(d) No employee of the Brewers Association may enter.

(e) Judges may not judge a category they have entered, and stewards may not steward a category they have entered.

(f) There are no defined regions in which you must enter; instead you must choose a Judging Center when you register your entries. Ship all of your entries to the Judging Center you have chosen.

(g) An entry cap of 750 per Judging Center was established in 2009. The entry cap will be applied again this year to ensure the integrity of the judging. If the cap is reached for a Judging Center, there will be no further entries accepted for that Judging Center.

(h) If you register your entries with one Judging Center and later try to add more entries after the Judging Center has reached the 750 limit, you will not be able to register the additional entries.

## PART II – Instructions for Registering Your Entry

### Registering Your Entry Online

The National Homebrew Competition requires entrants to register their entries online using the [Online Entry Registration](#) system (available mid-February 2011). You can find the link for online entry and the shipping information at [NHC Shipping Information](#), as well.

There is no paper entry form; **ALL** entries must use the online registration program.

### Special Ingredients Instructions

Entries in categories 6D, 16E, 17F, 20, 21A, 21B, 22B, 22C, 23, 25C, 26A, 26C, 27E, 28A, 28B, and 28D **require Style and/or Special Ingredients information**. As a general rule, these ingredients must

play a role in the overall flavor/aroma/mouthfeel of the homebrew. Conversely, a homebrew listed in a category not requiring special ingredients, should not have any special ingredients listed.

All MEAD entries (categories 24, 25, 26) **must** include sweetness, carbonation, and strength information.

All CIDER entries (categories 27, 28) **must** include sweetness, and carbonation information.

If the required information is not provided, the entry will be **disqualified**.

Please do not use brand names, or geographic names, or any other proper names of special ingredients. For example, if you used Premier malt extract, Briess pale malt, Washington apples, Colorado clover honey, or Sitka spruce tips, only enter malt extract, pale malt, apples, clover honey, or spruce tips, respectively.

If you have special instructions for the judges (e.g. request that the judges roll a bottle of Belgian Wit before serving), such instructions should also be included in the Special Ingredients section.

#### ***Entries in 6D American Wheat or Rye Beer***

Specify if rye was used; otherwise, wheat will be assumed.

#### ***Entries in 16E Belgian Specialty Ale***

Specify the beer being cloned, the new style being produced, or the special ingredients or processes used. Additional background information on the style and /or beer may be provided to judges to assist in the judging, including style parameters or detailed descriptions of the beer.

#### ***Entries in 17F Fruit Lambic-Style Ale***

You **must** specify the types of fruit used in making the lambic.

#### ***Entries in 20 Fruit Beer***

You **must** specify the underlying beer style as well as the type of fruit used. You **must** specify the beer style, whether it is a classic style (e.g. Robust Porter) or a general style (e.g. “porter”). The types of fruit **must** also be specified.

#### ***Entries in 21A Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer***

You **must** specify the underlying beer style as well as the type of spices, herbs, or vegetables used. You **must** specify the beer style, whether it is a classic style (e.g. American Wheat) or a general style (e.g. “wheat ale”). The type of spices, herbs, or vegetables **must** also be specified.

#### ***Entries in 21B Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer***

You are not required to, but you **may** declare an underlying beer style as well as the special ingredients used. The base style, spices, or other ingredients need **not** be identified. The beer **must** include spices and **may** include other fermentables (sugars, honey, maple syrup, molasses, treacle, etc.) or fruit.

#### ***Entries in 22B Other Smoked Beer***

You **must** specify the beer style, whether it is a classic style (e.g. Robust Porter) or a general style (e.g. “porter”). Specify the type of wood or other source of smoke only if a varietal character is noticeable.

***Entries in 22C Wood-Aged Beer***

You **must** specify the beer style, whether it is a classic style (e.g. Robust Porter) or a general style (e.g. “porter”). Specify the type of wood only if a varietal character is noticeable.

***Entries in 23 Specialty Beer***

You **must** specify the experimental nature of the beer (e.g. type of special ingredients used, process utilized or historical style being brewed), or why the beer doesn’t fit an established style. You **may** specify an underlying beer style. For historical styles or unusual ingredients/techniques that may not be known to beer judges, you should provide descriptions of the styles, ingredients and/or techniques used.

***Entries in 24-26 Mead***

All mead entries **must** specify level of sweetness (dry, semi-sweet, sweet), carbonation (sparkling, petillant, still), and strength (hydromel, standard, sack). If a specific honey variety was used and the varietal character is noticeable, you **may** specify this in the Special Ingredients field as well.

***Entries in 25C Other Fruit Melomel***

You **must** also specify the varieties of fruit used.

***Entries in 26A Metheglin***

You **must** also specify the types of spices used.

***Entries in 26B Braggot***

You **may** also specify the base style of beer or types of malt used.

***Entries in 26C Open Category Mead***

You **must** also specify the special nature of the mead, whether it is a combination of existing styles, experimental mead, historical mead, or some other creation.

***Entries in 27-28 Ciders***

All cider entries **must** specify level of sweetness (dry, semi-sweet, sweet) and carbonation (sparkling, petillant, still).

***Entries in 27E Traditional Perry***

You **must** also specify the varieties of pear used.

***Entries in 28A New England Cider***

You **must** also specify if the cider was barrel-fermented or aged.

***Entries in 28B Fruit Cider***

You **must** also specify what fruit and/or fruit juices were added.

***Entries in 28D Other Specialty Cider/Perry***

You **must** also specify all major ingredients and adjuncts.

**PART III – The Fine Print**

**A. Judging**

- (1) First Round judging of all entries will be done at the First Round Judging Centers April 2- April 23, 2011. (Canadian entries will be judged April 11-16, 2011.)
- (2) The Judging Center directors will strive to mail score sheets with judges' comments to entrants by May 27, 2011. If any of your entries qualify for the Final Round judging, the AHA will mail you notice by the third week of May with instructions on how, when and where to send entries [three (3) bottles per qualifying entry] for Final Round judging. Contestants are advised to refrigerate or properly store potential Final Round entries to minimize changes in character. **RE-BREWING** recipes of entries advancing from First Round **IS PERMITTED**.
- (3) Final Round judging of qualifying entries will be done at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference in San Diego, CA, on June 16, 2011.
- (4) Judges and stewards are needed for the NHC First and Final Rounds. Qualified and interested individuals are encouraged to volunteer by contacting the appropriate Competition Organizer; visit [Volunteering](#) for more information.
- (5) All decisions by competition organizers are final.

**B. First Round Awards**

- (1) **Ribbons** will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers scoring 30 or higher in each category from the U.S. First Round NHC competition sites. Entries must score 30 or better to place in the First Round and advance to the Final Round, although scoring a 30 or better does not guarantee advancement to the Final Round. If there are not three entries scoring 30 or better in a given category, judges will advance fewer than three entries for that category.
- (2) **Certificates** will be awarded to First Round brewers based on judges' scoring and the following standards:
  - Gold-Certificate winners have scores of 38-50,
  - Silver-Certificate winners have scores of 30 to 37,
  - Bronze-Certificate winners have scores of 25 to 29

**Certificates are awarded separately from the ribbons and DO NOT indicate winning first, second or third place within a category or advancement to the Final Round.**

### C. Final Round Awards

- (1) First-, second- and third-place winners in each category will receive gold, silver or bronze medals, respectively.
- (2) First-place winning entries in each of the 23 beer categories will compete in a best-of-show judging. The winner will be awarded **Homebrewer of the Year**.
- (3) First-place winning entries in each of the 3 mead categories will compete in a best-of-show judging. The winner will be awarded **Meadmaker of the Year**.
- (4) First-place winning entries in each of the 2 cider categories will compete in a best-of-show judging. The winner will be awarded **Cidermaker of the Year**.
- (5) The **Ninkasi Award** will be given to the entrant who accumulates the most points in the Final Round of this competition. To be eligible for the award, entrants must have at least one entry place in the 23 beer categories. Six points are awarded for a first place, four points for a second place and two points for a third place. Individual members of a group of brewers earn points as a group and do not earn points on an individual basis.

There will be only one Ninkasi Award winner. In the event of a tie, points will be calculated for tying brewers' entries that placed in the First Round of the NHC based on the same scale as used in the Final Round. The tying entrant with the most number of points in the First Round will then be determined the winner.

- (6) **Homebrew Club of the Year** will be awarded to the club that accumulates the most total points in all categories of beer, mead and cider in the First and Final Rounds, as well as the AHA Club-Only Competitions. In the First and Final Rounds, six points are awarded for a first place, four points for a second place and two points for a third place. In the First Round, a club may only receive points for a maximum of three awards per category, the highest three awards shall be counted, not to exceed a 12-point maximum. In the AHA Club-Only Competitions, points are awarded on a twelve-eight-four basis for each of the six AHA Club-Only Competitions in the August to May cycle. For your club to receive points the club must be registered with the AHA and you must have included the club name when you registered your entries online. Please check the [AHA Club List](#) to be sure your club's AHA registration is up to date.
- (7) **Gambrinus Club Award** will be awarded to the club garnering the most Final Round points per total club entries (Final Round points / # of NHC entries from club). To be eligible, clubs must have a minimum of 5 club members entering the First Round, and a minimum of 2 club members advancing to and at least one entry placing in the Final Round of the competition. Six points are awarded for a first place, four points for a second place and two points for a third place.

There will be only one Gambrinus Club Award winner. In the event of a tie, the tying club's points/entry will be calculated using the points from both the First and Final Rounds of the NHC ( $[\text{First Round points} + \text{Final Round points}] / \# \text{ of NHC entries from club}$ ). Points for the First Round of the NHC are based on the same scale as used in the Final Round. The tying club with the higher points/entry value over both the First and Final Round will then be determined the winner.

For your club to receive points the club must be registered with the AHA before January 17, 2011 and you must have included the club name when you registered your entries online. Please check the [AHA Club List](#) to be sure your club's AHA registration is up to date. New clubs registered between January 17<sup>th</sup> and March 30, 2011 will not appear in the drop-down club list of the online registration program. If this is the case, select "Other" from the drop-down menu and type in your club's name in the field provided.

- (8) At the discretion of competition organizers and/or judges, awards may not be given if the quality of an entry is deemed undeserving of an award.

#### **D. AHA Membership**

Non-members or expired AHA members can qualify for discounted entry fees (\$9 per entry versus \$14 per entry for non-members) by joining or renewing your membership at the time you pay for your registered entries. The discount will be automatically applied to your bill when you checkout.

#### **E. Recipe Requirement**

A recipe is not required to enter the First Round; however, if your entry advances to the Final Round, you must submit a recipe. Upon entering this competition, entrants agree to allow (at no cost) publication of their recipe by the Brewers Association or any of its divisions in any Brewers Association publication. Entrants will receive all due credit.

#### **F. Return Policy**

No entries will be returned whether received late or otherwise. All entries become property of the AHA.

#### **G. Refund Policy**

Refunds will only be given for paid entries which will NOT be submitted to an NHC Judging Center, and will be given only in the event that you request a refund prior to **Monday, March 14, 2011**. No refunds will be given after March 14, 2011. Contact the AHA National Homebrew Competition Director, Janis Gross ([Janis@brewersassociation.org](mailto:Janis@brewersassociation.org)) before March 14<sup>th</sup> to request a refund.

#### **H. Packing and Shipping Hints**

It is your responsibility to adequately pack and ship your entries to the correct Judging Center and have them arrive intact. Carefully pack your entries in a sturdy box. Line the inside of your package with a plastic trash bag. Partition and pack each bottle with adequate packaging material. Please refrain from using packing "peanuts" if possible; use bubble wrap or newspaper instead. The Judging Centers make efforts to recycle packaging material whenever possible. Do not over pack! Your package should weigh less than 25 pounds.

Read "[How to Pack Your Beer](#)," a downloadable PDF file from *Zymurgy* Spring 1991 (Vol. 14, No. 1) for excellent advice on how to save time and money, and avoid broken bottles. Also refer to "The Competitive Edge," an article about entering competitions in *Zymurgy* Spring 1996 (Vol. 19, No. 1). A hard copy of this article is available for free upon request if accompanied with a

self-addressed stamped envelope or call the AHA at 1.888.U.CAN.BREW, (303) 447-0816; or contact [info@brewersassociation.org](mailto:info@brewersassociation.org) to obtain an electronic copy.

Every reasonable effort will be made to contact entrants whose bottles have broken to make arrangements for sending replacement bottles.

It is not against any federal laws to ship your entries via a privately-owned shipping company for analytical purposes. However, **IT IS ILLEGAL TO SHIP ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.** Private shipping carrier rules and regulations concerning the shipment of beer or alcoholic beverages vary. We strongly encourage you to check with your shipping carrier prior to shipping your entry. Be aware that entries shipped internationally are often required by customs to have proper documentation. These packages might be opened and/or returned to the shipper by Customs Officials at their discretion. It is solely the entrant's responsibility to follow all applicable laws and regulations.

### **I. Disqualifications**

Entries failing to meet requirements listed in these Rules and Regulations will be disqualified. Disqualified entries may still be judged, but will not be eligible for awards or prizes.

### **PART IV – ENTRY LOCATION INFORMATION**

See the [Judging Center Locator Guide](#) for the nine US competitions; this is also published in the March/April 2011 issue of *Zymurgy*. In addition, Shipping/Drop-Off address for your Judging Center is included on the page with your bottle labels from the online registration program.

### **PART V – SPONSORS**

There are many fine companies who support homebrewing and homebrewers by donating resources to the AHA National Homebrew Competition. Special thanks go to **Ninkasi Award Sponsor Boston Beer Co.** Please support the businesses that support homebrewing!

The AHA thanks the following award and category sponsors of the 2010 NHC who made last year's competition possible. The category and award sponsors for 2011 will be updated as we get closer to the competition, visit [Competition Sponsors](#).

#### **2010 NHC AWARD SPONSORS**

Ninkasi Award – [Samuel Adams](#) (Boston Beer Co)  
Homebrew Club of the Year – [Coopers Brew Products](#)  
Gambirinus Club Award – [MoreBeer Homebrewing Supplies](#)  
Homebrewer of the Year – [Muntons p.l.c.](#)  
Meadmaker of the Year – [Redstone Meadery](#)  
Cidermaker of the Year – [Woodchuck Draft Cider](#)

#### **2010 NHC CATEGORY SPONSORS**

1. Light Lager – [Five Star Products & Services, LLC](#)
2. Pilsner – [Beer & Wine Makers Warehouse](#)
3. European Amber Lager – [How to Brew](#) by John Palmer

4. Dark Lager – [Briess Malt & Ingredients Co.](#)
5. Bock – Washington Hop Commission
6. Light Hybrid Beer – [Cargill World Select c/o Cargill Malt](#)
7. Amber Hybrid Beer – [Grape & Granary](#)
8. English Pale Ale – [St. Louis Wine & Beer Making](#)
9. Scottish and Irish Ale – [Brew Brothers](#)
10. American Ale – [BJ's Restaurant & Brewery](#)
11. English Brown Ale – [Alternative Beverage](#)
12. Porter – [Deschutes Brewery](#)
13. Stout – [Brew & Grow](#)
14. India Pale Ale – [Anderson Valley Brewing Co.](#)
15. German Wheat and Rye Beer – [Widmer Brothers Brewing Co.](#)
16. Belgian and French Ale – [Port Brewing Co. / The Lost Abbey](#)
17. Sour Ale – [Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.](#)
18. Belgian Strong Ale – [Dingemans c/o Cargill Malt](#)
19. Strong Ale – [Northern Brewer](#)
20. Fruit Beer
21. Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer – [High Gravity Homebrewing & Winemaking Supplies](#)
22. Smoke-Flavored and Wood-Aged Beer – [Alaskan Brewing Co.](#)
23. Specialty Beer – [The Hops Shack](#)
24. Traditional Mead
25. Melomel (Fruit Mead) – [Bacchus and Barleycorn](#)
26. Other Mead
27. Standard Cider and Perry – [Woodchuck Draft Cider](#)
28. Specialty Cider and Perry – [Woodchuck Draft Cider](#)

## **2011 NHC SITE SPONSORS**

[AleSmith Brewing Co.](#), San Diego, CA, shipping  
[Breckenridge Brewery](#), Denver, CO, shipping & judging  
[Bushwakker Brew Pub](#), Regina, SK, Canada, shipping & judging  
[Coors Distributing](#), Ft. Worth, TX, judging  
[Courtyard Marriott](#), Goodlettsville, TN, judging  
[House of Brews](#), Madison, WI, shipping  
[Lodi Beer Co.](#), Lodi, CA, judging  
[MoreBeer Homebrewing Supplies](#), Concord, CA, shipping  
[Pyramid Alehouse Brewery](#), Seattle, WA, shipping  
[Rebel Brewer](#), Goodlettsville, TN, shipping  
[Saratoga Zymurgist](#), Saratoga Springs, NY, shipping  
[St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church](#), San Diego, CA, judging  
[Sun King Brewery](#), Indianapolis, IN, shipping & judging  
[The Winemakers Toy Store](#), Carrollton, TX, shipping  
[Town & Country Resort](#), San Diego, CA, judging  
[VFW Post](#), Saratoga Springs, NY, judging

[Vintage Brewing Co.](#), Madison, WI, judging

## **PART VI – CATEGORY LISTINGS**

The AHA National Homebrew Competition uses the **Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) Style Guidelines for Beer, Mead and Cider 2008 Edition**. A downloadable version of the complete style descriptions is available on the [BJCP website](#).

The following is a listing of categories and subcategories.

1. LIGHT LAGER
  - A. Lite American Lager
  - B. Standard American Lager
  - C. Premium American Lager
  - D. Munich Helles
  - E. Dortmunder Export
2. PILSNER
  - A. German Pilsner (Pils)
  - B. Bohemian Pilsner
  - C. Classic American Pilsner
3. EUROPEAN AMBER LAGER
  - A. Vienna Lager
  - B. Oktoberfest/Märzen
4. DARK LAGER
  - A. Dark American Lager
  - B. Munich Dunkel
  - C. Schwarzbier (Black Beer)
5. BOCK
  - A. Maibock/Helles Bock
  - B. Traditional Bock
  - C. Doplebock
  - D. Eisbock
6. LIGHT HYBRID BEER
  - A. Cream Ale
  - B. Blonde Ale
  - C. Kölsch
  - D. American Wheat or Rye Beer
7. AMBER HYBRID BEER
  - A. Northern German Altbier
  - B. California Common Beer
  - C. Düsseldorf Altbier
8. ENGLISH PALE ALE
  - A. Standard/Ordinary Bitter
  - B. Special/Best/Premium Bitter
  - C. Extra Special/Strong Bitter (English Pale Ale)

9. SCOTTISH AND IRISH ALE
  - A. Scottish Light 60/-
  - B. Scottish Heavy 70/-
  - C. Scottish Export 80/-
  - D. Irish Red Ale
  - E. Strong Scotch Ale
10. AMERICAN ALE
  - A. American Pale Ale
  - B. American Amber Ale
  - C. American Brown Ale
11. ENGLISH BROWN ALE
  - A. Mild
  - B. Southern English Brown Ale
  - C. Northern English Brown Ale
12. PORTER
  - A. Brown Porter
  - B. Robust Porter
  - C. Baltic Porter
13. STOUT
  - A. Dry Stout
  - B. Sweet Stout
  - C. Oatmeal Stout
  - D. Foreign Extra Stout
  - E. American Stout
  - F. Russian Imperial Stout
14. INDIA PALE ALE (IPA)
  - A. English IPA
  - B. American IPA
  - C. Imperial IPA
15. GERMAN WHEAT AND RYE BEER
  - A. Weizen/Weissbier
  - B. Dunkelweizen
  - C. Weizenbock
  - D. Roggenbier (German Rye Beer)
16. BELGIAN AND FRENCH ALE
  - A. Witbier
  - B. Belgian Pale Ale
  - C. Saison
  - D. Bière de Garde
  - E. Belgian Specialty Ale
17. SOUR ALE
  - A. Berliner Weisse
  - B. Flanders Red Ale

- C. Flanders Brown Ale/Oud Bruin
  - D. Straight (Unblended) Lambic
  - E. Gueuze
  - F. Fruit Lambic
18. STRONG BELGIAN ALE
- A. Belgian Blond Ale
  - B. Belgian Dubbel
  - C. Belgian Tripel
  - D. Belgian Golden Strong Ale
  - E. Belgian Dark Strong Ale
19. STRONG ALE
- A. Old Ale
  - B. English Barleywine
  - C. American Barleywine
20. FRUIT BEER
21. SPICE/HERB/VEGETABLE BEER
- A. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer
  - B. Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer
22. SMOKE-FLAVORED AND WOOD-AGED BEER
- A. Classic Rauchbier
  - B. Other Smoked Beer
  - C. Wood-Aged Beer
23. SPECIALTY BEER
24. TRADITIONAL MEAD
- A. Dry Mead
  - B. Semi-sweet Mead
  - C. Sweet Mead
25. MELOMEL (FRUIT MEAD)
- A. Cyser (Apple Melomel)
  - B. Pymment (Grape Melomel)
  - C. Other Fruit Melomel
26. OTHER MEAD
- A. Metheglin
  - B. Braggot
  - C. Open Category Mead
27. STANDARD CIDER AND PERRY
- A. Common Cider
  - B. English Cider
  - C. French Cider
  - D. Common Perry
  - E. Traditional Perry
28. SPECIALTY CIDER AND PERRY
- A. New England Cider

- B. Fruit Cider
- C. Apple Wine
- D. Other Specialty Cider/Perry