



## Eligibility

The Best Florida Beer Competition (BFBC) is open to all commercial beers brewed in the State of Florida and offered for sale in the State of Florida without significant changes or modifications to the beer recipe from the way it has been offered for sale to the public. Breweries must be fully licensed for the manufacture and commercial sale of beer in the state of Florida. Breweries must have a Brewers Notice on file with the TBB. Eligible entries must be for sale or have been poured on premise on or before January 31st, 2017.

## Judging

Judging will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Each entry will be evaluated by a minimum of two judges. Judges will either be professional brewers or [Beer Judge Certification Program](#) (BJCP) judges ranked “certified” or higher. A judge cannot evaluate their own entry or an entry in which they are associated. Judging is blind without knowledge of the brewery or the brand being evaluated.

All entries, including ‘Small Batch’, will be judged together for the first round. Small Batch entries will be separated for Best of Show judging. All medal winners and the Best of Show winners will be announced at the Brewers Ball in Tampa on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Beers brewed in small quantities or as special projects or those that are not otherwise available for the wider exposure to the market provided by the Large Batch classification should be entered with the Small Batch classification. This might include beers brewed in small quantities, or that have had special treatments done to a small portion of a larger batch, or that are released infrequently and thus will have difficulty meeting the 1/2 barrel keg requirement as outlined below.

## Categories

All beers will be judged according to the style specified by the brewer on the entry form. World Beer Cup 2016 Style Guidelines will be used. Style descriptions can be seen at the [WBC Style Guidelines 2016](#). Entered ciders will be judged against the [2015 BJCP Cider Style Guidelines](#) and meads will be judged against the [2015 BJCP Mead Style Guidelines](#). The Best Florida Beer reserves the right to combine categories depending upon the number of entries received.

If the brewer wishes to enter a new style of beer not previously categorized please write the description of this beer in sufficient detail for the judges. Some historical or specialty beers may fit into such a category.



## Awards & Medals

- Credit for each beer will go to both the brewery and to the brewer of the particular beer entry.
- Entries will be graded on a score range of 60 to 100 points.
- Entries which score the minimal score necessary are NOT automatically awarded a medal.

**Only the top three scoring beers** in each category, or grouped category should a category not receive enough entries to be judged on its own, will receive a respective gold, silver or bronze medal. The judges do not necessarily have to award a gold medal if they feel that any of the entries do not meet the standards for a gold medal. The gold medal beer from each category will be judged for Best of Show. In the event a gold medal is not awarded, the silver and bronze medal entries are not eligible for advancement to the Best of Show round.

Best of Show winners for the Large Batch classification will be awarded the title Best Florida Beer. Best of Show winner for the new Small Batch classification will be awarded the title Best Small Batch Florida Beer. Each will receive a Best of Show trophy that will be presented at the Brewers Ball in Tampa on March 5th, 2017. Trophies will also be presented to the 2nd and 3rd Best of Show in each classification.

## Requirements of Medal Winners

All medal winning beers (gold, silver and bronze) in each category are required to be showcased at the Brewers Ball. One half barrel keg is required of all medal winners. Small batch medal winning beers need only provide a sixtel barrel keg. Please ensure to save those kegs for the Brewers Ball on Sunday, March 5th, 2017. **Medals will not be awarded unless the winning entry is available on tap at the Brewers Ball.** Medal winners are required to send, or arrange for delivery of a keg of their medal winning beers to the Brewers Ball on March 5th, 2017. BFB will make attempts to assist in shipping of cooperage to the Brewers Ball or picking up of cooperage.

## Cost

- The cost is \$45.00 per entry. The second entry of every participating brewery will be free.
- Breweries are limited to a maximum of 10 beer entries and 5 cider or mead entries.
- Entry fees must be received before judging on February 10th.
- Paypal is the preferred means of payment for the entry costs.

Checks should be mailed to the competition organizer. Checks must be received by February 10th, 2017 or entries will not be judged. We strongly recommend using paypal on the registration website.

Make checks payable to :

**Best Florida Beer Inc.**

Please send checks to:

**John O'Meara**  
4260 W. Linebaugh Ave.  
Tampa FL 33624

## Deadline

January 31st, 2017 for all entry registrations. Entries must be dropped off or delivered by January 31st, 2017.

## Entry Requirements

Two samples of beer will be required, each at least 12 ounces. This is a change from previous years. In past years, each beer evaluation was a medal round where this year, each will be evaluated against those beers in the same category. A second round will be used to determine the medal winning entries which score the minimum required score.

Each entry is required to have its State of Florida Brand number or the Date of First Tapping (if served at a Brewpub) and months that it is available for enjoyment by Florida consumers if it is a seasonal. Beers will be served to the judges “blind” so the type of container will not be an issue. Cans, bottles, kegs, PET bottles with carbonators will all be accepted. Contact the organizer if you would like the free use of Carbonator™ caps for your draught beer. These simple to use caps allow the brewer to package draught beer and then pressurize the bottle with CO<sub>2</sub> to prevent oxidation and retain full carbonation.

\*Please note that breweries are now limited to a maximum of 10 beer entries and 5 cider or mead entries.

Entries should be sent to arrive before the January 31st deadline to:

BFBC  
c/o 81Bay Brewing Company  
Attn: Julia Stewart  
81Bay Brewing Co.  
4465 W Gandy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33611

81 Bay's phone number is 813-837-BREW  
Hours of operations:  
Mo - Th: 4pm - 10pm,  
Fr: 3pm - 12am,  
Sa: 12pm - 12am,  
Su: 12pm - 9pm

Failure of the medal winning brewery to bring a ½ barrel keg or 1/6 barrel keg to Brewers Ball will disqualify the entry from the competition. The Brewers Ball is the ultimate beer festival in Florida meant to showcase the best beers that each brewery has to offer and in the end only the three best beers in each category or grouped category.

## How to Enter

Entry registration forms and fees must be received on or before January 31st, 2017. **Please use the easy [online entry form](#) to submit your commercial entry.**

Please designate Small Batch entries by appending (SB) to the end of the name of your beer in the entry form.

## Promote Your Medals

The BFB encourages your brewery to promote your medal winning beers on your website and marketing efforts. Any marketing reference to your Best Florida Beer medal or trophy must contain the year of award and the competition name.

Always have your artwork pre-approved by the Best Florida Beer. Requests for approval of artwork can be emailed to:

VP of Pro Brewing, Best Florida Beer | [VPCommercial@bestfloridabeer.org](mailto:VPCommercial@bestfloridabeer.org)

To preserve the integrity of the Best Florida Beer and the credibility of its results for all those concerned, reference to Best Florida Beer awards are governed by rules. Be sure and review the marketing agreement on our website.

- Always include the category, award type (gold, silver or bronze), name of the beer, and year the award was won in your marketing material.