



2018 Professional Competition Rules

Eligibility

The Best Florida Beer Competition (BFBC) is open to all commercial beers brewed 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 Brewer's Notice on file with the TTB. Eligible entries must be for sale or have been poured on premise on or before **January 31st, 2018**.

Judging

Judging will take place on **February 10th and 11th, 2018**. 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 Brewer's Ball in Tampa on Sunday, **March 4th, 2018** at **Waterworks Park**.

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 2 1/6bbl keg requirement as outlined below.

Judge Compensation

This is a professional competition, and as such the beers should be judged by your peers in addition to BJCP judges ranked Certified or higher. Understanding this, Best Florida Beer is prepared to offer hotel room compensation for breweries that send qualified judges. This compensation will be \$100 per night up to a maximum of 2 nights and \$200 at a hotel local to the judging site (double occupancy). To receive this compensation, the judges must judge at least two flights per day. Breweries will submit their hotel receipts with the judge names and Best Florida Beer will compensate the brewery within 60 days of the end of primary judging.

Peer Reviewed Judging

Best Florida Beer would like to remind breweries that this competition is for you. It is to recognize and hopefully reward you for your hard work and passion for craft beer in the state of Florida. We would like to encourage you to send a qualified member of your team to participate in the judging. This team member should participate in sensory meetings and have an educated vocabulary for describing and evaluating beer. Professional brewers participating in the judging will be working with BJCP judges ranked Certified or higher to offer guidance and expertise to those unfamiliar with the judging process.

As an incentive, every brewery that sends a representative to help judge the competition will receive another ticket to Brewer's Ball. This ticket will be issued when the judge checks in at judging. Maximum of two additional free tickets per brewery.

Categories

All beers will be judged according to the style specified by the brewer on the Reggie entry form. WBC 2016 Style Guidelines will be used. Style descriptions can be reviewed here:

[WBC 2016 Style Guidelines](#).

We are adding a new category this year for New England Style IPA's. These beers will be judged and awarded separately from "traditional" IPA and will use the US Open Guidelines for East Coast Style IPA, category 28B (New England IPA) and 28C (New England DIPA). Please read and understand these guidelines to ensure your beer is entered properly. These guidelines can be found here: [US Open Beer Championship Guidelines](#)

Brett Beers will be judged and awarded separately this year. The category will include WBC Category 24, subcategories "Brett Beer" and "Mixed Culture Brett Beer".

We are expanding from 31 total categories and adding the following categories:

- Kettle Soured Ale (category 51)
- Traditional (Mixed Culture) Soured Ale (categories 23, 28, 59, 60)
- Dry Stouts (to include Dry/Irish Stout and Oatmeal Stout) (categories 77, 83)
- Sweet/Strong Stouts (to include Sweet/Cream Stout, British Imperial Stout, Export Stout, American Style Stout, and American Imperial Stout) (categories 76, 79, 84, 95, 96)
- Dessert Stouts (to include coffee/chocolate stout, treated stout, and dessert stouts) (any of the above categories. MUST DECLARE base style and treatment for accurate judging)
- Floridaweisse - 51A Berliner Weisse with Fruit (MUST DECLARE FRUIT)

The Best Florida Beer Board and the Competition Organizer will work diligently to ensure that categories are collapsed as logically as possible and beers that are most similar are judged together to avoid judge palate fatigue. Collapsing will be kept to a minimum for 2018, however, with current competition structure, it is impossible to know full category collapsing until after all entries have been received. Collapsed categories and the styles contained within them will be announced after Best Of Show entries have been received.

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 will be judged **on technical merit according to guidelines and overall drinking pleasure.**

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 4th, 2018. 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. **2 1/6bbl kegs are required of all medal winners. Small batch medal winning beers need only provide a 1/6th barrel keg.** Please save those kegs for the Brewers Ball on Sunday, March 4th, 2018. Medals will not be awarded unless the winning entry is available on tap at the Brewer's Ball.

Cost

\$45 per entry. Second entry of every participating brewer will be given free of charge.

*Please note that breweries are now limited to a maximum of 10 entries.

Entry fees must be received before judging on February 9th.

Medal winners are required to send, or arrange for delivery of a keg of their medal winning beers to the Brewers Ball on March 4th, 2018. BFB will make attempts to assist in shipping of cooperage to the Brewers Ball or picking up of cooperage. **Brewers MUST NOT remove kegs until the end of the festival.**

As noted in the "Peer Reviewed Judging" section, breweries that send a qualified representative to help judge will be given an extra free ticket to Brewer's Ball. Maximum of two additional free tickets per brewery.

Deadline

January 31st, 2018 for all entry registrations. Reggie's entry portal will close at midnight of the 31st. Entries must be dropped off or delivered by January 31st, 2018.

Entry Requirements

Three samples of beer will be required, each at least 12 ounces. This is a change from previous years. We require three samples of beer to ensure enough is available to judge all three rounds of competition without having to ask for a third bottle for Best Of Show eligible beers.

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.

Carbonator caps WILL NOT be made available for the 2018 competition.

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

Best Florida Beer Competition

c/o Tyler Singletary

Flying Boat Brewing Company

1776 11th Avenue North

Saint Petersburg, FL 33713

Failure of the medal winning brewery to provide a 2 1/6 barrel kegs (or equivalent) to Brewers Ball (or 1 1/6bbl keg for small batch entries) 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.

How to Enter

Entry registration forms and fees must be received on or before **January 31st, 2018**. Please use the easy online entry form [on ReggieBeer.com](http://onReggieBeer.com) 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.

*Please note that breweries are now limited to a maximum of 10 entries.

Paypal is also available on the web site. **This is your best option.**

Checks should be mailed to the address below. Checks must be received before the first day of judging, no later than February 9th, 2018 or entries will not be judged. Please attach a letter notating the check number and the brewery being paid for.

Send checks to:

Best Florida Beer Professional

% Jason Toft, VP Commercial

2850 34th Street North #402

Saint Petersburg, FL 33713

Promote Your Medals

Best Florida Beer wants you to celebrate your award winning beers! Please feel to use our name and imagery on your website and marketing efforts with the following guidelines:

- Always include the year, award category, award type, and name of the beer. For example: (Best Florida Beer Professional 2018 - Gold Medal in IPA - “name of beer”)
- Any labeling or packaging artwork including award imagery or information should be approved by Best Florida Beer. This can be done by emailing an image of proposed artwork to Jason Toft, VP of Commercial - vpcommercial@bestfloridabeer.org - and artwork will be approved within 2 weeks.
- Website imagery can be found on the Best Florida Beer website at the [Promote Your Medals](#) link under the Professional tab. If other artwork is desired please contact Jason Toft at the address above.

Thank you for following these guidelines. It helps us to preserve and protect the integrity of the competition.