



HOME BREW COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office
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BJCP Sanctioned Competition

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1, 2026

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE & DROP OFF May 4, 2026, by Noon

Entry Fee: \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Drop Off: Entries must be dropped on or before May 4 by Noon at any of the following locations:

- Hamburg Brewing Company during business hours (Please check availability ahead of time) at 6553 Boston State Rd, Hamburg, NY
- Erie County Fairgrounds Main Offices (9:30 AM – 4:00 PM Monday-Friday) at 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY
- Resurgence Brewing Company during business hours (Please check availability ahead of time) at 55 Chicago St, Buffalo, NY

Homebrew Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair and Creative Arts Department rules and regulations.
2. ***All entries must be registered by Monday, May 4, 2026.*** Entries not registered by this date will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Open to any home brewer, 21 years or older, who is a resident of New York State.
4. **No amateur exhibitor shall be involved in commercial beer making or use the services of a commercial beer making facility.**
5. All beers must be produced and bottled in New York State by the exhibitor. Any beer entered in competition becomes the property of the Erie County Agricultural Society.
6. Each brewer will be limited to 5 entries. All beers should be 7% ABV or lower. All beers should be named something other than the style.
7. Two (2) bottles per entry. Each bottle must be labeled (paper label attached to the bottle with a rubber band, do **NOT** stick or tape labels to the bottles) with the following: (1) name of beer, (2) class number, (3) variety, (4) beer maker's name, (5) beer maker's address, (6) ABV of entry. One (1) bottle will be used for the first pour of the competition. The second bottle will be used for Best of Show. A fillable template provided.
8. The decision of the judges shall be final.
9. All exhibitors will receive a standard BJCP score sheet for each beer entered from at least two (2) judges (with at least one BJCP Certified or higher).
10. Some recipes are more challenging to make commercially; the Erie County Fair reserves the right to bypass the Best of Show based upon recipe. Beer must be dropped off for judging **NO LATER THAN** May 4, 2026. If you are mailing your entry, you must mail the entry to: The Erie County Fair, Attn: Home Brew Competition, 5600 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY 14075.



HOME BREW CLASSES

AMATEUR HOMEBREW-1

**Amateur – someone not involved commercially with brewing. Does not sell beer.*

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. Kölsch

5C. German Helles Exportbier

5D. German Pils

6. Amber Malty European Lager

6A. Märzen

6C. Dunkles Bock

7. Amber Bitter European Beer

7A. Vienna Lager

7B. Altbier

8. Dark European Lager

8A. Munich Dunkel

8B. Schwarzbier

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

18. Pale American Ale

- 18A. Blonde Ale
- 18B. American Pale Ale

19. Amber & Brown American Beer

- 19A. American Amber Ale
- 19B. California Common
- 19C. American Brown Ale

20. American Porter & Stout

- 20A. American Porter
- 20B. American Stout

21. IPA

- 21A. American IPA
- 21B. Specialty IPA (Belgian, Black, Brown, Red, Rye, Brut)
- 21C. Hazy IPA

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

26. Monastic Ale

- 26A. Belgian Single

27. Historical Beer

- 27A. Any Historical Beer (Kellerbier, Kentucky Common, Lichtenhainer, London Brown Ale, Piwo Grodziskie, Pre-Prohibition Lager, Pre-Prohibition Porter, Roggenbier, Sahti)

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

30D. Specialty Spice Beer

34. Specialty Beer

34B. Mixed-Style Beer

34C. Experimental Beer

PROFESSIONAL HOMEBREW-2

Professional – someone who is involved commercially with brewing. Works for a brewery or sells their own beer.

1. Any Style

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SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST OF SHOW AMATEUR

\$100 & Banner

Reproduction of Winning Beer

Will be awarded for overall outstanding amateur beer **

BEST OF SHOW PROFESSIONAL

\$75 & Banner

Will be awarded for overall professional outstanding beer

MOST CREATIVE in Celebration of America 250

\$50 & Banner

Will be awarded for overall most creative beer

**If the recipe is too challenging, we reserve the right to reproduce another beer as deemed necessary.