

# HOMEBREW

## 2025 COMPETITION GUIDE

**It's your moment to shine!**  
**Enter today.**

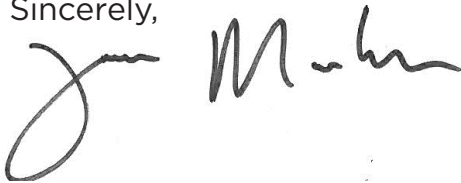
For more than 170 years the California State Fair has been a constant showcase of the talents and achievements of the people of California. Entering into the California State Fair's 2025 Competitive Exhibits Program allows you the opportunity to showcase your abilities, and revel in your accomplishments!

The California State Fair's friendly competitions are designed to acknowledge the best of the Golden State. Our Competitive Programs inspire talented Californians, as well as highlight the latest advances in technology, agriculture, and industry.

More than 750,000 visitors are expected at the State Fair this summer. Your work is an integral part of the State's celebration, and we look forward to seeing your talents on display during the annual State Fair from July 11-27, 2025.

We encourage you to enter today and begin making lasting memories for yourself, and for the hundreds of thousands of State Fair patrons!

Sincerely,



**Tom Martinez**

Chief Executive Officer

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Gavin Newsom

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

January 8, 2025

On behalf of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, a warm welcome to you as we all prepare for the exciting 2025 fair season! We are thrilled you are joining us this year and sincerely thank you for your continued involvement in showcasing your products, livestock, and expertise. Your contributions help make our fairs successful and provide an invaluable experience for our communities.

Fairs play an essential role in connecting food and agriculture with the public. They are not only a time for us to celebrate the fruits of our labor, but also serve as a critical platform for educating future generations about the importance of farming and food production, livestock management, and sustainable practices. Through your participation, you directly contribute to the appreciation of the vital role agriculture plays in our lives and foster an understanding of the tremendous diversity, innovation and new technology that create new opportunities in agriculture and our rural communities.

The fairgrounds are not just a venue for the annual events. Throughout the year, they serve as a hub for various interim activities that support local economies, offer educational programming, and foster community engagement. From hosting agricultural workshops and livestock sales to providing facilities for regional competitions and cultural festivals, the fairgrounds contribute to the vibrancy and resilience of our agricultural community. Additionally, they play an important role in emergency preparedness, providing a space for disaster response and recovery efforts during critical situations, such as flooding or extreme weather events.

We understand the dedication and hard work that goes into preparing for the fair, and we want to express our deep gratitude for your commitment to making each fair season a success. Your participation ensures the continued relevance of our fairs and strengthens the agricultural ties that bind us all together as a community.

We look forward to this fair season and its great success!

Yours truly,

Karen Ross  
Secretary



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

**Contact:** David Teckam: Competition Head Judge  
Rob Rogers: Competition Coordinator  
*E-mail:* [homebrew@calexpo.com](mailto:homebrew@calexpo.com)

## Entry Dates:

March 31	Entries Open
April 26	Entries Close Nor-Cal & So-Cal
April 14 - 26	Shipping Entries Accepted at Cal Expo
April 14 - 26	Angel City Brewery: Southern California Drop Off Dates
April 24 - 26	Cal Expo: Northern California Drop Off Dates
May 2 - 4	Judging Dates (not open to public)
May 12	Winners Announced

## The California State Fair July 11-27, 2025

The California State Fair has always been the awe-inspiring showcase of the state's finest, and ever since the first fair in 1854, California has upheld this tradition. People come from all over to witness the competition and innovation that our exhibitors produce. We continue to add new and exciting competitions to our competitive programs to showcase California's very best!

## Why enter the Competition?

The Homebrew Competition offers you the opportunity to compete with all California Home Brewers and receive valuable feedback. Judges partner and work extraordinarily hard to evaluate the fruits of your labor.



# COMPETITION OVERVIEW



## How to Enter

Go to <https://castatefairhomebrew.brewcomp.site/> and follow the instructions.

## Entry Registration & Fees

1. **Entry Registration:** <https://castatefairhomebrew.brewcomp.site/>  
All entry fees must be received by **Saturday, April 26, 2025, by 4:00 pm.**  
**No extensions.**
2. **Official guidelines:** <https://calexpostatefair.com/competitions/california-homebrew/>
3. **Entry Fees:** Registration fees are **\$13.00** per entry. Payment must be made via PayPal. **NO CASH ACCEPTED FOR ENTRIES. Do Not send Payments with Entries.**
  - a. Please pay on our registration site at <https://castatefairhomebrew.brewcomp.site/>

## General Information

1. **Additional Information:** Should there be any information desired and not found in the prospectus, please e-mail **Rob Rogers at [homebrew@calexpo.com](mailto:homebrew@calexpo.com)**. If you are unsure of the category your beer should be entered in, send us an email and we are happy to provide guidance.
2. **Revisions:** This is sent out in advance and therefore may be subject to revision or change.
3. **Mailing List and Notification:** Although we try to keep mailing lists current, we cannot be held responsible for any individual that is not notified or contacted.

# RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Brewers must be official residents of California and be at least 21 years of age. Beers must be made in the home for private non-commercial use. Brews made at the commercial brewery (e.g., nano or micro-brewery) or a Brew - on - Premise are not allowed.
2. Brewers are limited to one entry per subcategory, and no more than three entries per category.
3. Each entry consists of three (3) 12oz. bottles or cans for all categories.
4. No other bottles will be accepted due to the inconvenience of handling. NIP bottles (6oz-8oz) are acceptable for the strong ale, barleywine and meads entries only. Corked bottles will be allowed for sours, Lambics or aged beers. Beers will be disqualified for entry requirement infractions. These beers will be judged and will receive completed evaluations but will be ineligible for awards or prizes.
5. Submission of Entry(s) to this competition implies acceptance of all rules and conditions as stated in the Homebrew Guidelines and the California State Fair General Rules which can be found at <https://calexpostatefair.com/competitions/california-homebrew/>

## Entry Requirements

6. Bottles must be clean and carry no labels or other identification, including silk-screened labels. Blackout all commercial cap designs.
7. Attach the bottle entry forms that can be generated out of the Homebrew Competition website (only entry forms found in this database will be accepted) to each bottle with rubber bands only. Do not glue or tape your forms to the bottles. For consideration of Home Brew Club of the Year, ensure that your club affiliation is associated with each entry online
8. For consideration of Home Brew Club of the Year, ensure that your club affiliation is associated with each entry online. A single club must be specified to have points awarded. Selecting multiple clubs will result in zero points being awarded to any club.
9. The Competition Staff reserves the right to modify categories as needed.

# DELIVERY & SHIPPING

## Hand Delivery (Drop-Off)

### *Sacramento*

#### **Homebrew Competition**

California State Fair

Attn: Steve Martinez (916)997-7450

Ethan & Hurley, Cal Expo Gate 12

Expo Center #6

1600 Exposition Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95815

**Entries accepted April 24 - 26 ONLY between 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.**

**Please note:** No late entries will be accepted after 4:00 pm on April 26.

#### **Special Instructions** [MAP](#)

Enter Cal Expo through Gate 12 at the corner of Ethan & Hurley Way. Follow the service road past the farm and past Raging Waters. Turn right at the 3-way intersection. Expo Center is directly ahead. Drop off will be held inside building #6. Follow the signs!

### *Concord*

#### **Homebrew Competition**

MoreBeer! & MoreWine!

995 Detroit Ave G

Concord, CA 94518

Contact: Patrick (925) 771-7107

**Entries accepted April 14 - 26 ONLY between these hours:**

**Mon - Fri: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

**Sat/Sun: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM.**



**Southern California Drop-Off Location:  
Homebrew Competition**

Angel City Brewery  
216 S. Alameda  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Entries accepted April 14 - 26, from 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM.**

*\*No appointment necessary.*

**Weekend drop-off, 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM.**

*\*No appointment necessary. Speak to bar staff on-site.*

Come to the gate on Traction Ave, ring bell if gate is closed.  
Otherwise, ask bar staff during open hours to leave entries in cooler.

Southern CA drop off entries will be shipped via pallet. All entries should be packed in a fully enclosed and properly padded box the same as if you were shipping via a commercial carrier (e.g. UPS, FedEx). Loose bottles/cans or unenclosed 6-pack holders will be rejected.

So-Cal drop off questions, please contact:

**Layton Cutler, Head Brewer**

Email: [Layton.Cutler@AngelCityBrewery.com](mailto:Layton.Cutler@AngelCityBrewery.com)

Cell: (347) 563-5596

## Shipping

**California State Fair  
Homebrew Competition**

Attn: Courtney Wiegman (916) 221-0783  
Administration Building  
1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815

**Entries accepted April 14 - 26**

For more information or questions regarding entries, please contact:

**Rob Rogers, Competition Coordinator**

Email: [HomeBrew@CalExpo.com](mailto:HomeBrew@CalExpo.com)

Cell: (559) 321-3430



# JUDGING (CLOSED SESSION)

## Judging Time & Place

Judging will be taking place May 2 - 4. Judging will occur in closed session with BOS winners chosen on Sunday afternoon.

## Basis of Judging

The Homebrew competition uses the American system of judging. This judging system ranks beers against one another and awards one gold, silver, and bronze in each category.

This competition will follow the BJCP Competition Standards and is BJCP Sanctioned. All judging will be double-blind. Entries will be cold stored until judging time. Judging will be overseen by a Lead Judge whose decisions will stand.

Club of the Year shall be determined by the following medal (ribbon) point totals:

Gold (1st) = 8 pts.

Silver (2nd) = 4 pts.

Bronze (3rd) = 2 pts.

In case of a tie, Club of the Year will be determined by the following tie breaker conditions, applied in order:

1. The lowest number of entries.
2. The highest number of Gold ribbons.
3. The highest total number of overall ribbons.

**Scoring** - Beer Judge Certification Program judging criteria allows a maximum of 50 points to entry (see [www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP\\_BeerScoreSheet.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_BeerScoreSheet.pdf)) as follows:

<b>Judging Category (as appropriate for style)</b>	<b>Maximum Points Available</b>
Aroma	/12
Appearance	/3
Flavor	/20
Mouthfeel	/5
Overall Impression	/10
<b>Total</b>	<b>/50</b>

# AWARDS

Club of the Year ..... Rosette and Golden Bear Trophy  
Best of Show ..... Rosette and Golden Bear Trophy  
Gold, Silver, and Bronze in each Category ..... Rosettes



# CATEGORIES

Style Guidelines updated 2021 as follows:

**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. Blonde 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
  - Specialty IPA: Belgian IPA
  - Specialty IPA: Black IPA
  - Specialty IPA: Brown IPA
  - Specialty IPA: Brut IPA
  - Specialty IPA: Red IPA
  - Specialty IPA: Rye IPA
  - Specialty IPA: White 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 Weiss
- 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. BELGIAN BEER:**

- 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 BEER:**

- 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. Commercial Specialty Beer
- 34B. Mixed-Style Beer
- 34C. Experimental Beer

**C1. STANDARD CIDER AND PERRY:**

- C1A. New World Cider
- C1B. English Cider
- C1C. French Cider
- C1D. New World Perry
- C1E. Traditional Perry

**C2. SPECIALTY CIDER AND PERRY:**

- C2A. New England Cider
- C2B. Cider with Other Fruits
- C2C. Applewine
- C2D. Ice Wine
- C2E. Cider with Herbs/Spice
- C2F. Specialty Cider/Perry

**M1. TRADITIONAL MEAD:**

- M1A. Dry Mead
- M1B. Semi-Sweet Mead
- M1C. Sweet Mead

**M2. FRUIT MEAD:**

- M2A. Cyser
- M2B. Pyment
- M2C. Berry Mead
- M2D. Stone Fruit Mead
- M2E. Melomel

**M3. SPICED MEAD:**

- M3A. Fruit and Spiced Mead
- M3B. Spice, Herb or Vegetable Mead

**M4. SPECIALTY MEAD:**

- M4A. Braggot
- M4B. Historical Mead
- M4C. Experimental Mead

# 2025 GENERAL RULES

**CLICK LINK OR SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW GENERAL RULES ONLINE:**

<https://calexpoStateFair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/25-General-Rules.pdf>





# DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this guide

**American System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged in comparison to the other entries in the class. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc. according to relative merit. There will be no more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Danish System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged on its own merit. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc., depending on points received based on the score card. There may be more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Senior Departments:** California Fine Art, California Crafts, Canning & Baking, Photography, Commercial Wine, Commercial Craft Brew, Home Brew, California Cheese, California Olive Oil, Open Livestock by species and Open Small Animals by species.

**Junior Departments:** Youth Canning & Baking, Student Showcase, Ag Mechanics, Junior Livestock by species and Junior Small Animals by species.

**Senior/Open Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is no longer eligible to be a Junior Exhibitor or enter a Junior Department.

**Junior Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is a member of 4-H, FFA, Grange, or an Independent Youth Exhibitor who meets the requirements of Independent Junior divisions offered. See the specific show and General Rules for exceptions to this definition.

**Entry Office:** The California State Fair Entry Office is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Contact may be made by phone, mail, email or personal contact. Questions regarding competitions may also be directed to the Entry Office. (916) 263-3149 - [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com).

**Still Exhibits:** All competitive exhibits which are typically indoor and not involving animals, such as art, quilts, foods, crafts, sewing, metalwork, jewelry, graphics, drafting, sciences, etc.

**Livestock & Small Animals:** All competitive exhibits which animals are the entry; such as beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, llamas, cavies, rabbits, poultry, dogs, etc.

**Online Entry:** Commitment to enter and abide by rules.

**Detailed Receipt:** An official form used in submitting an entry/exhibit in the California State Fair. The Detailed Receipt is only required for Open and Junior

Livestock, Small Animals, Best of Show and Ag Mechanic exhibitors.

Entry Fees: A fee charged to enter a competition. All entry fees must be paid online when entries are submitted.

Entry/Exhibit: Terms used to define the item entered in the competition or contest.

Entrant/Exhibitor: Terms used to define the person entering the competition.

Premium: A cash award is given to winners of the competition.

Department: Competition you wish to enter, i.e., California Crafts, Fine Art, Student Showcase, etc. which is comprised of similar shows.

Shows: Generalized sections of the competition.

Division: Categories within a show.

Class: Specific categories within a division.

Competition Guide: a printed or electronic (web) book, prospectus, or flyer which contains information for entry into the California State Fair competitions. Competition Guides can be a printed document or as an electronic document found on the California Exposition & State Fair website [CalExpoStateFair.com](http://CalExpoStateFair.com).

Bona-fide Ownership of Exhibit - ownership is the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property considered an entry or exhibit. This definition includes livestock, small animals, and horses although not limited to that type of property. Objects/products created or produced are also included as well as intellectual property. Proof of such ownership may be required by management.