

## **Description of Beer Categories for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual USBTC Summer Competition**

<u>Imperial IPA or Imperial Amber/Red Ale:</u>	Beers with an IPA or Amber/Red Ale designation but brewed to reach an Imperial level ( <u>ABV=8.0%+</u> ) resulting in intensification of their alcohol and/or hop profile. There is <u>no ABV limit</u> . <b>Please note American Black Ale is excluded here (a category in our winter competition) and we have added separate pull-out categories for Hazy (NE-style) IPA &amp; Imperial IPA as summer categories.</b>
<u>Imperial Hazy IPA:</u>	Hazy/Juicy/New-England-style Imperial IPA with <u>ABV=8.0% or greater</u> . There is <u>no ABV limit</u> .
<u>IPA:</u>	Strongly hop-accented ale, historically gold to copper in color. We set an <u>ABV of 7.9% or less</u> . If ABV>8%, the beer will be placed in Imperial IPA (see above). American Black Ale is excluded here.
<u>Hazy IPA:</u>	Hazy/Juicy/New England-style IPA with <u>ABV of 7.9% or less</u> .
<u>Pale Ale:</u>	Ales with both malt and hop presence, but interpretations vary widely from malt to hop dominated. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> . If ABV is higher, the beer should be placed in IPA (above).
<u>Amber/Red Ale:</u>	This is a brewer's designation, though some of these beers trace their origins to Irish or Scottish styles. There is no IBU cutoff and <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> . Beers above this limit should be placed in Imperial Amber/Red Ale (above) or, if preferred, Strong Ale (a category in our winter competition).
<u>Bitter/ESB:</u>	Pale ales brewed with some aspect of the English tradition such as English hop or malt varieties (e.g., East Kent Goldings or Fuggles hop, Maris Otter malt) or alteration of water characteristics, etc. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> . If higher, the beer should be placed in our IPA category (above) or Strong Ale (a category in our winter competition).
<u>Kolsch/Cream/Gold Ale:</u>	Gold-colored ale, potentially undergoing cold maturation like a lager, typically lower bitterness than pale ale or IPA. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> . If higher, the beer should be placed in pale ale or IPA (above) or Strong Ale (in our winter competition).
<u>Belgian/French Specialty:</u>	Ales brewed in traditional Belgian/French styles including saison, biere de garde, farmhouse ale, Belgian pale ale, and Abbey single ale. <u>Excluded</u> from this category are Belgian Wit (included in its own category-below), Belgian Bruin/Red Ale (included in Sour Beer-below), and Double, Triple, Quadruple and Belgian Strong Ale (which are a winter category). There is <u>no ABV limit</u> .
<u>Belgian White/Wit:</u>	Ales brewed in the style of Belgian White/Wit, containing a significant amount of wheat added to the barley malt along with spices and/or other flavor additives (excluding fruit-flavored wheat beer). <u>ABV must be 6.5% or lower</u> . If ABV is higher, the beer should be placed in the Belgian/French Specialty category (above) or Abbey/Belgian Strong Ale (a winter category).
<u>Wheat Beer:</u>	Any beer that contains a significant proportion of wheat added to the barley malt. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> . Note: Belgian White/Wit and fruit wheat beer should be placed in their respective categories.
<u>Bock/Doppelbock:</u>	High-ABV lager that can be golden to dark brown in color but with strong malt character. Typically, true bocks are lagered for a significant amount of time. There is <u>no ABV limit</u> .
<u>Pilsner:</u>	Gold-colored lager but distinctly hop-accented, typically with a flowery aroma, dry finish, and IBU from 20-40. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> or the beer should be placed in our Bock category.
<u>Dortmunder/Helles:</u>	Gold-colored lager, though clearly less hop-accented than pilsners. <u>ABV must be 6.5% or less</u> or the beer should be placed in our Bock category.
<u>Sour Beer:</u>	A beer that has been brewed to intentionally impart significant sour notes. This can be accomplished through any number of methods, including yeast selection and barrel-aging. there is <u>no ABV limit</u> . Note: Sour beer entries that contain fruit-flavoring are to be submitted in the category below.
<u>Fruited Sour Beer:</u>	Sour beers as described above but with fruit flavor added. There is <u>no ABV limit</u> .
<u>Fruit Beer:</u>	Beer of any base style, excluding sour beer, that contains a clearly detectable level of fruit flavoring in the taste, including fruit-flavored Belgian styles, wheat beer, IPA, etc. There is <u>no ABV limit</u> .

Note that a beer can only be entered in one category.