

Description of Beer Categories for the 18th Annual USBTC Winter Competition

<u>Barrel/Wood Aged Beer:</u>	Beer of any style that is aged in a barrel or with wood chips. There is no limit to the ABV of this style. Beers may be entered in this style or in the underlying style category – not both.
<u>Barleywine:</u>	Ales with ABV>9.0%, excluding imperial porters/stouts with ABV<14%
<u>Strong/Old Ale:</u>	Ales with 6.5%<=ABV<=9.0%. Exclusions based on ABV, etc. are noted elsewhere under their appropriate style. Please note that Double/Imperial IPAs and Imperial Red/Amber Ales are included in their own category in our <u>summer</u> competition.
<u>Imperial Stout:</u>	Stouts or porters with 7.5%<=ABV<=14%. Those above 14% ABV will be placed in our barleywine category.
<u>Stout:</u>	All ales labeled “stout” excluding those with ABV>7.5%.
<u>Porter:</u>	All ales labeled “porter” excluding those with ABV>7.5%.
<u>Scottish-Style Ale:</u>	All ales brewed to mimic the Scottish tradition; that is, a heavily malt-accented character and often smoky/peaty/whiskey undertones. No ABV limit is set for Scottish ales.
<u>Belgian/Abbey Strong Ale:</u>	Ales brewed in traditional Abbey/Belgian styles excluding those examined in our Big Belgian pull-out category (see below) or our Belgian/French-Style Ale category in our summer competition (Belgian Pale Ale, Saison, Wit). The styles for this category include, but are not limited to Dubbel, Trippel and most Belgian Golden Strong Ale. The ABV limit is at 10.5% ABV . Beers with ABV>10.5% will go in our Big Belgian Ale category.
<u>Brown/Dark Ale:</u>	Ales brewed with significant amounts of dark malt typically imparting chocolate, nutty, and/or roasty flavor, but with ABV<6.5% and not otherwise classified as a porter/stout. This includes beers in the “mild” style.
<u>Black/Dark Lager:</u>	Lagers denoted as “dunkel,” “schwarzbier,” “dark” or “black” that have ABV<=6.5% and are not otherwise classified by the brewer (i.e., bock beer). Those with ABV>6.5% would be categorized in bock beer in our summer competition.
<u>Vienna/Marzen Lager:</u>	Lagers described as “Vienna,” “Marzen,” “Octoberfest,” “Fest” or “Amber Lager” that are brewed with more malt accents than pilsners, Dortmunders, Helles or other gold lagers. They are typically light to dark amber in color and have an ABV<=6.5%. Those with ABV>6.5% would be categorized in bock beer in our summer competition.
<u>Spice/Herb Beer:</u>	Beer of any style that contains a clearly detectable level of spice or herb flavoring in the taste. The category includes strong ales (up to 9.0% ABV) that have significant spice/herb flavor, but excludes spiced barleywines, Belgian-style beers, and beers where the additional flavor is consonant with the base style of the beer.
USBTC Pull-out Category	
<u>Big Belgian Ale:</u>	Belgian-inspired beers with ABV>10.5%, including quadruples and many of those designated as “Grand Cru” or “Cuvee”. This category may also include high-ABV Flemish/Belgian sour beer styles and Belgo-Americans styles such as Belgian Imperial Stouts or Belgian Scottish Ales. No ABV limit is set for this category.