

Beer Judge Certification Program 101

What is the BJCP?

The BJCP's stated purpose is to;

- Encourage knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the world's diverse beer, mead, and cider styles;
- Promote, recognize, and advance beer, mead, and cider tasting, evaluation, and communication skills; and
- Develop standardized tools, methods, and processes for the structured evaluation, ranking and feedback of beer, mead, and cider.

Essentially, they are the governing body for certifying beer judges for brewing competitions in North America.

What is the process for becoming certified?

1. Pass the online BJCP entrance exam (bjcp.coursewebs.com)

- Separate exams for beer/mead, cider exam in progress
- Beer exam includes 180 questions
- Must be completed in 60 minutes (20 seconds per question average)
- \$10 per attempt, or 3 for the price of two
- 64% needed to pass the exam (116 questions out of 180)
- Test includes true or false, multiple choice, and multiple-choice-multiple-answer questions covering technical aspects of brewing, BJCP style categories, BJCP certification and rank requirements, and BJCP judging procedures and ethics
- Passing grants you the title of **Provisional Judge**
- If you don't pass, you are given the title **Apprentice Judge**

2. Pass the BJCP judging exam

- You have 1 year to complete this after passing the online exam
- Judge 6 beers of various categories
- 15 minutes per beer
- **No style guidelines may be used during the exam**
- Graded based on accuracy of tasting, descriptive feedback, knowledge of beer styles, and how complete your judging sheet is
- Passing the exam earns you the rank of **Recognized Judge**

3. Earn 5 points

- Points are awarded for judging, stewarding, or otherwise volunteering at competitions
- At least 2.5 points must be from judging
- Passing the two exams above **and** earning your 5 points earns you the title **Certified Judge**

Where should I start?

- Get to know the style guidelines; download the app, read them at **dev.bjcp.org** or print out a hard copy
- Get to know the judging form at **dev.bjcp.org**
- Learn the common off flavours and their causes: find a sensory training course if you can
- Practice judging beer critically, describing what you taste, and comparing it to the guidelines
- Take the 20 question practice online exam at **bjcp.coursewebs.com** to see what types of questions to expect and find gaps in your knowledge
- Dig in to the study materials posted at **dev.bjcp.org**
- Join a study group?