

**BREWING
EDUCATION
TRUST**

PRESENTS



6TH ANNUAL

HOMEBREW COMPETITION

20 & 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

ENTRIES ACCEPTED UNTIL 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

**ENTRY DROP-OFFS IN AUCKLAND, WELLINGTON,
NELSON & CHRISTCHURCH**

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AotearoaHomeBrewingClassic/>

Our Website <https://brewingeducation.nz/competitions/ahbc/>

Our Competition registration page <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/>

Sponsors

Our competition could not be held without the support of our sponsors:

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Brewing Education Trust



Introduction

Homebrewers of New Zealand! Now is your chance to be part of the 6th Annual 2025 Aotearoa Home Brewing Classic!

Held in the Mighty Manawatu on the 20th and 21st of September, this nationwide homebrewing competition is open to all brewers from around NZ.

The Aotearoa Home Brewing Classic is a BJCP sanctioned competition accepting all BJCP styles, with a flat fee of \$15 per entry.

Quality feedback is a key focus. Experienced BJCP qualified judges from around the country will be involved at every level. You will receive individual scoresheets with comments from each judge, not just a single table sheet.

Thanks to the support of local businesses there are nationwide drop off points in Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch.

Entry numbers are limited, so make sure you register now at <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/>.

The AHBC will use a slightly different format from other competitions you may have entered, and is more in line with international homebrewing competitions. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each category with the category winners going through to a Best of Show round to find the Champion Beer.

If you would like to judge or steward and join us for a fun weekend, please register your interest at <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/> or contact us using the website form. Homebrew competitions are an excellent way to learn how to make better beer. Saturday evening after judging will be great fun with a few ales and tales with a chance to catch up with other homebrewers and judges from around NZ.

For further information visit our competition page <https://brewingeducation.nz/competitions/ahbc/>

How to enter

Entry is online only, visit <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/> to create an account and add your entries. Account registration is open until the competition start, entry registration will start on the 8th of August, and is open until the 5th of September.

The entry fee is \$15 per entry. Accepted payment methods are: Credit/debit card via PayPal or PayPal account.

Each bottle must be labelled with the label generated by the registration software. The minimum volume for entry is 2 bottles, each with a minimum volume of 500ml. Two bottles are required in case of breakage, single bottle infections, or Best Of Show taste-offs.

Each entry will receive 2 or 3 BJCP-style judge scoresheets and will be judged according to the 2015 BJCP guidelines. The competition covers styles 1-34 and the local style NZ Pilsner.

Entries are open to all New Zealand residents aged 18 or over. Each entrant (or team of entrants) is limited to 5 entries. Each entrant is limited to 1 entry per subcategory.

Prizes

Prizes are still being added, keep an eye on our Facebook page for up to date information.

Results and prizewinners

Results will be displayed on the competition registration site <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/> as soon as possible after the conclusion of the competition and repeated on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AotearoaHomeBrewingClassic/>.

Scoresheets will be downloadable through your competition account, prizewinners will be contacted directly by the organisers.

Drop-Off & Shipping Locations

Entry bottles are accepted at our drop-off and shipping locations from Friday 8th August, 2025 through Friday 5th September, 2025.

Aylward Accountants

63 Bourke Street, Palmerston North 4410
06 3532259

*Please check opening hours before dropoff.

Hauraki Home Brew

11D Piermark Drive, Rosedale, Albany 0632
09 442 5070

*Entries must be in PET bottles. Please check opening hours before dropoff.

League Of Brewers

14 Vivian Place, Annesbrook, Nelson 7011
0204 1331383

*Please bag your entries for ease of handling.

Punky Brewster

22B Tyne Street, Addington, Christchurch
03 662 9943

*Please check opening hours before dropoff.

Regional Wines & Spirits

15 Ellice Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington 6011
04 385 6952

*Ask for Tom or Stefan, please bag your entries for ease of handling.

The Brewstore

3/51 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua 5022
04 237 0483

*9am til 4pm Tuesday to Friday and 9am til 2pm Saturday.

Packing and Shipping

Tape the labels onto the bottles using clear packing tape, covering the label completely to prevent it being ripped. Let your bottles come up to room temperature to help the tape stick.

Pack your bottles tightly in a sturdy box, line the box with a plastic bag to prevent leaks. Roll each bottle in bubble wrap, fold the ends over and tape them down. Put good padding between the bottles, and fill in the gaps at the top and bottom with crumpled paper or extra bubble wrap. Tape the box along each edge, and that should do it.

Every reasonable effort will be made to contact entrants whose bottles have broken to make arrangements for sending replacement bottles.

Allow plenty of time for shipping, entries must be received by the Shipping Closed date to be eligible.

Shipping address

Brewing Education Trust - AHBC

Aylward Accountants Ltd, 63 Bourke Street, Palmerston North, 4410

AHBC Judging procedure:

Each judging category will be judged by a panel of judges who each write their own BJCP-style scoresheet. These scoresheets are returned to the entrants. If a category is too large to be judged in one flight, additional judge panels will be used.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be given for each category. There are no score-based medals. In a single panel category, the judges will select the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries from their flight by score. An entry is required to score a minimum average of 30 points to be eligible for a placing. If multiple judge panels are used, a mini-BOS (<https://www.bjcp.org/docs/MiniBOS.pdf>) procedure will be followed to choose the winners.

Champion Beer - The 1st place entries from each category will be judged separately in a Best-of-Show taste-off to select the overall Champion Beer.

Champion Brewer will be determined by the highest Champion Point score, with 3 points earned for a 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for 3rd place.

If Champion Brewer points are tied, the tie will be won by the entrant with the highest scoring entry. If this fails to break the tie, then the tie will be won by the entrant with the highest minimum score.

Best Novice Brewer - This title will be awarded to the novice brewer with the highest Champion Point score, calculated the same way as the Champion Brewer award. For the purposes of this competition, a Novice is defined as a person who has not entered the AHBC before as either a primary or secondary brewer. If no Novice earns any Champion Points, then the Novice with the highest scoring beer will win.

Location and timetable

Location - Squashgym Palmerston North, 22 Linton Street. Upstairs in the Lounge Bar.

Saturday - 20th September 2025

Judging Session 1 - 09:00 - 12:00

Lunch 12:00 - 13:00

Judging Session 2 13:00 - 17:00

Sunday - 21st September 2025

Judging Session 3 - 09:00 - 12:00

I want to help out as a judge/steward, how do I do that?

If you're planning on entering the AHBC, you can register your interest in your competition account and we'll be in touch. If you don't have one, you can open one here <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/> to register to judge. If you don't fancy either of those options, send us an email and get in touch here <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/index.php?section=contact>.

If you're looking for somewhere to stay in Palmy, or just a restaurant recommendation, contact us and we'll do what we can to help.

Our judging and award categories.

The following are taken directly from the 2021 BJCP guidelines, appendix A3, minus some of the historical styles.

See here https://www.bjcp.org/download/2021_Guidelines_Beer.pdf for the current BJCP version.

3. Styles Sorted Using Style Family

This system uses new categories based on the style family or beer style name without regard to country of origin or history; based primarily on color and yeast. Has fewer, broader categories.

1. Pale Lager

- A. 1A. American Light Lager
- B. 1B. American Lager
- C. 2A. International Pale Lager
- D. 3A. Czech Pale Lager
- E. 4A. Munich Helles
- F. 4B. Festbier
- G. 5A. German Leichtbier
- H. 5C. Helles Exportbier

2. Pilsner

- A. 3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
- B. 5D. German Pils

3. Amber Lager

- A. 2B. International Amber Lager
- B. 3C. Czech Amber Lager
- C. 6A. Märzen
- D. 6B. Rauchbier
- E. 7A. Vienna Lager
- F. 27. Historical Beer: Kellerbier
- G. 19B. California Common

4. Dark Lager

- A. 2C. International Dark Lager
- B. 3D. Czech Dark Lager
- C. 8A. Munich Dunkel
- D. 8B. Schwarzbier

5. Bock

- A. 4C. Helles Bock
- B. 6C. Dunkles Bock
- C. 9A. Doppelbock
- D. 9B. Eisbock

6. Pale Ale

- A. 1C. Cream Ale
- B. 5B. Kölsch
- C. 12A. British Golden Ale
- D. 12B. Australian Sparkling Ale
- E. 18A. Blonde Ale
- F. 18B. American Pale Ale
- G. 24B. Belgian Pale Ale
- H. 25A. Belgian Blond Ale
- I. 25B. Saison
- J. 26A. Belgian Single
- K. X5. New Zealand Pilsner

7. IPA

- A. 12C. English IPA
- B. 21A. American IPA
- C. 21B. Specialty IPA (all)
- D. 22A. Double IPA

8. Amber Ale

- A. 7B. Altbier
- B. 11A. Ordinary Bitter
- C. 11B. Best Bitter
- D. 11C. Strong Bitter
- E. 14A. Scottish Light
- F. 14B. Scottish Heavy
- G. 14C. Scottish Export
- H. 15A. Irish Red Ale
- I. 19A. American Amber Ale
- J. 24C. Bière de Garde
- K. 26B. Belgian Dubbel

9. Brown Ale

- A. 13A. Dark Mild
- B. 13B. British Brown Ale
- C. 19C. American Brown Ale

10. Porter

- A. 9C. Baltic Porter
- B. 13C. English Porter
- C. 20A. American Porter

11. Stout

- A. 15B. Irish Stout
- B. 15C. Irish Extra Stout
- C. 16A. Sweet Stout
- D. 16B. Oatmeal Stout
- E. 16C. Tropical Stout
- F. 16D. Foreign Extra Stout
- G. 20B. American Stout
- H. 20C. Imperial Stout

12. Strong Ale

- A. 17A. British Strong Ale
- B. 17B. Old Ale
- C. 17C. Wee Heavy
- D. 17D. English Barley Wine
- E. 22B. American Strong Ale
- F. 22C. American Barleywine
- G. 22D. Wheatwine
- H. 25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale
- I. 26C. Belgian Tripel
- J. 26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

13. Wheat Beer

- A. 1D. American Wheat Beer
- B. 10A. Weissbier
- C. 10B. Dunkles Weissbier
- D. 10C. Weizenbock
- E. 23A. Berliner Weisse
- F. 23D. Lambic
- G. 23E. Gueuze
- H. 23F. Fruit Lambic
- I. 23G. Gose
- J. 24A. Witbier

14. Sour Ale

A. 23B. Flanders Red

B. 23C. Oud Bruin

15. Specialty Beer

A. All remaining beers in Categories 28-34

Competition Rules.

Our current competition rules are hosted here <https://ahbc.brewingeducation.nz/>. Be sure to check there for the current version, as this document may not be as up-to-date.

1. All samples submitted become property of the Brewing Education Trust and will not be returned. It is the entrant's sole responsibility to ensure entries reach us safely. The competition organisers are not responsible for any entries damaged in transit or handling.

2. To be eligible all entries must reach the shipping location by the Entry Shipping close date, or a designated drop-off point by the Entry Drop-off close date.

3. No requests for day-of-competition entries or special handling will be accepted, except for in-style pouring instructions for stewards.

4. Each entry requires 2 bottles containing at least 500ml volume. Other vessels (e.g. cans, plastic bottles) may be used instead of glass bottles providing the volume requirements are met. Larger bottles (e.g. 2 x 750ml) are fine to enter. Entries consisting of equivalent volumes in different numbers of bottles (e.g. 3 x 330ml, 1 x 1000ml) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Due to issues with leaks in previous years FLIPTOP BOTTLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Additionally, we strongly recommend using PET bottles. Some dropoff points will only accept PET bottles this year, please check carefully.

5. Entries will be sorted into award/judging categories by style family according to appendix A(3) of the 2021 BJCP guidelines. Ciders, meads and other non-beer beverages are not part of this competition.

6. Entrants are restricted to a maximum of 5 entries initially. Entrants may enter 2 beers per judging category, but only one per sub-style. e.g. you may enter an Irish Stout and an Imperial Stout, but not 2 Irish Stouts.

7. If necessary, the competition organisers reserve the right to cap entry numbers to a manageable number without notice. Currently the competition is capped at 300 entries.

8. Commercial beer is not eligible for entry.

9. The same beer may not be entered more than once per competition.

10. The competition organisers will not reassign entries into different styles, all entries will be judged as the style it was entered. For advice on the most appropriate styles, contact the competition coordinators.

11. Prizes involving brewing a commercial batch are subject to recipe, process, and scheduling approval by the commercial brewer. If a suitable recipe cannot be derived from the original homebrew, another may be negotiated.

12. All co-brewers must be registered for every entry, with one person designated as the main brewer. Any prizes will be awarded/delivered to the main brewer only. Teams of brewers are subject to the same entry restrictions as individuals.

13. Entries/entrants found breaching the rules may be disqualified at the organiser's discretion. No disqualified entries will be returned or refunded.

14. Commercial brewers may enter, however the beer must be made entirely at home using commonly available home-brewing ingredients and processes (e.g. no producing wort at work, then taking it home). Kit beers, fresh wort kits and brew on premises beers are fine to enter. Commercial brewers and competition staff/organisers may enter and win awards, but are ineligible for any award prizes or spot prizes. Prizes will be given to the runner-up in these cases. Judges may enter and may win awards and prizes.

15. Entry fees must be paid in advance for an entry to be eligible for judging. Available payment methods are debit/credit card via Paypal, or Paypal account.

FAQ

Who are you guys anyway?

This competition is run by homebrewers, for homebrewers. The AHBC is organised by the Brewing Education Trust, a registered non-profit charitable organisation set up by a bunch of enthusiastic homebrewers to further homebrewing competitions, education, and beer judging in NZ.

This competition is now in its entering it's sixth successful year, the team involved is experienced in running homebrew competitions in both New Zealand and Overseas.

We are three home-brewers who like beer judging and wanted to run a home-brewing competition. That's really all there is to it.

Why is the (judging, categories, awards) like this and not like (other competition)?

We chose the judging format because we think it gives the best feedback for entrants and the fairest results.

We chose the judging categories because we felt it made sense and wanted each one to have a decent number of entries.

We chose the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards format rather than score-based medals because we wanted to do something a little different to how NZ competitions have been done before.

Why the entry limits?

We don't want to bite off more than we can chew. If we receive too many entries, we won't be able to do justice by our entrants, judges or sponsors.

I've never been to a competition, can I come and watch?

Sure, the public is welcome. Just get in touch and let us know you're coming first please.

I've never judged before, do you take novice judges?

Absolutely, everyone has to start somewhere. Places aren't guaranteed, but let us know you're interested and we'll sort you out.