



**2026**  
**MICHIGAN STATE FAIR**  
**HOME BREW COMPETITION**  
**GUIDEBOOK**

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## **Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition Terms & Conditions**

1. By entering exhibits at the Michigan State Fair, you agree to the Michigan State Fair's General Terms and Conditions & Rules and Regulations. It is YOUR responsibility to read and understand all the terms and conditions which can be found within this guidebook.
2. Qualifications: No professional breweries or professional brewers will be allowed to enter this year of the competition.
3. **Registration Period for In-State vs. Out-of-State Homebrewers. This year, there will be an exclusive period for homebrewers who have their legal residence within the State of Michigan to register for the competition. Once this initial registration period closes, those homebrewers who are outside of the State of Michigan may register and submit their entries. If an out-of-state homebrewer submits an entry prior to the registration period for out of state entry registration, their entry fee will be refunded and their registration cancelled.**
4. Disputes: Should any dispute arise, the Michigan State Fair reserves the right to determine the proper resolution
5. Judging: Entries into the Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition will be judged according to the 2021 BJCP style guidelines found at the BJCP website and the link below:  
[https://www.bjcp.org/download/2021\\_Guidelines\\_Beer.pdf](https://www.bjcp.org/download/2021_Guidelines_Beer.pdf).
6. **The Michigan State Fair reserves the right to modify categories and/or subcategories to create a flight for judging and prize purposes.**
7. Parking: Parking for the awards ceremony/Friday Night Flights Beer Festival is available on-site at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace and is Free.

## Entry Information:

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*Michigan Residents: Enter Online Between  
April 6, 2026 – July 1, 2026*

*Non-Michigan Residents: Enter Online Between  
May 1, 2026-July 1, 2026.*

*\$10.00 per beer entered (3, 12 oz. bottles per entry)  
3 entry maximum per brewer*

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1. All entries must be made in accordance with the terms and conditions described herein.
2. Entries submitted by Non-Michigan Residents prior to May 1, 2026 will not be valid and will be cancelled.
3. The 2026 Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition is limited to the first 300 entries received.
4. **Online Entry: To enter the Michigan State Homebrew Competition, please go to <https://beerawardsplatform.com/the-michigan-state-fair-homebrew-competition-2026> and register. Each entrant is required to pay the entry fee(s) online at the time of entry. An entrant will not be considered entered into the Competition until payment is made in full and the entry is received by the Michigan State Fair. Payment can be made online with a valid credit card, debit card, or other valid form of online payment listed on the registration site. If you have an issue paying for your entries, please contact Grant Bowman at [Grant@Vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Grant@Vibeshowplace.com) or Blair Bowman Jr. at [Blair@Vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Blair@Vibeshowplace.com)**
5. If you have any questions, please contact [Blair@Vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Blair@Vibeshowplace.com) or [Grant@Vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Grant@Vibeshowplace.com) with “Homebrew Competition” in the Subject Line.
6. No entries will be accepted after July 1, 2026 or sooner if the cap of 300 entries is reached. To ensure participation, do not wait until the last minute to register.
7. Entry Fee is \$10.00 per beer entry (3 – 12 oz. bottles per entry). Entries which have not been fully paid for will not be judged.
8. Entries will be accepted for all BJCP categories; however, the Michigan State Fair reserves the right to organize the categories it may accept to facilitate judging, based on availability of judges, and flight the categories for prize purposes.
9. Do not submit more than one entry per subcategory. Example: it is not acceptable to enter two American Amber Ales, but it IS acceptable to

enter one American Amber Ale and one American Brown Ale, since these are in different subcategories of the Other American Ale Category.

### **Beer Delivery Procedure**

1. Beer will be accepted by the Competition **beginning July 01, 2026**. All beer must be received by the Competition **no later than July 10, 2026**. Ship or drop off entries (drop off by appointment only) to the address below. Email [Grant@vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Grant@vibeshowplace.com) or [Blair@vibeshowplace.com](mailto:Blair@vibeshowplace.com) to make a drop-off appointment.

**Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition**  
**Attn: Blair Bowman Jr.**  
**46100 Grand River Ave. Novi, MI 48374**

2. Registration and Bottle ID labels will be available on the competition website on BAP – Beer Awards Platform. Please print these documents and include them with your entry submission. Please attach the appropriate label to each bottle securely with a rubber band.

### **General Competition Information**

1. Entries may not be submitted that have been brewed on equipment used for any commercial purpose, including research, production, or brew on premise establishments.
2. Assistant brewers of award-winning beers will be announced and listed in the official results, but prizes will be presented only to the primary brewer.
3. Entries must receive a minimum judge score of 30 to be eligible for an award. First, Second, and Third, places will be awarded to the top three eligible entries in each category. The first-place winner in each category will advance to the “Best of Show” round.
4. Each entry must consist of three (3) bottles, 12 ounces in volume, brown or green glass. The Competition strives to ensure that all entries can be judged anonymously to ensure the integrity of blind judging. Entries must be completely free of paper labels (besides Bottle ID labels) and/or inked brand name lettering. Brewers are encouraged to use plain gold or silver caps. Obliterate any lettering or graphics on the cap with a permanent marker. Remove any other markings on the bottle or cap which may allow the entrant to be identified. Bottles with Grolsch-type swing tops are not allowed. Bottles with raised glass logos of common breweries (Sam Adams, dogfish head, etc.) are acceptable but any raised

or engraved lettering or graphics identifying the entrant are not allowed. Bottles that do not meet these requirements, or cannot be judged anonymously for any other reason, will be disqualified and will not be judged. There will be no refund of entry fees or additional purchased items.

5. The Competition is limited to the first 300 entries. Additionally, to accommodate judging, entry categories may be limited. Competition reserves the right to alter these limits.
6. Winners will be notified following with a generic email after judging, scheduled for July 18th, 2026.
7. Awards will be presented at the Michigan State Fair's Friday Night Flights Beer Festival, which occurs inside the beer tent on September 4th, 2026.
8. **Each brewer will receive one (1) ticket for admission (FAIR ONLY) into the Michigan State Fair. Additional tickets to the Fair can be purchased online at MichiganStateFairLLC.com. Beer Sample tickets may be purchased inside the beer tent.**

## **AWARDS**

*Awards to be presented at the Friday Night Flights Beer Festival at the Michigan State Fair*

1. Best of Show – Trophy + Annual Pass to the Vibe Credit Union Showplace awarded to Best of Show.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place B.O.S. - State Fair Ribbon + TBD Prize
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place B.O.S. - State Fair Ribbon+ TBD Prize
4. Ribbons provided to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, in each Category
5. Medals provided to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, in each Category
6. We reserve the right to combine categories or subcategories as necessary for the purpose of awarding prizes. All entries will be judged against the guidelines for the subcategory originally entered. Additional and specific prizes to be announced as sponsors are announced.

## All Categories

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### Category: Pale American Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Light Lager	1A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
American Lager	1B	
Cream Ale	1C	

### Category: Pale European Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
International Pale Lager	2A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
German Leichtbier	5A	
Kolsch	5B	
German Helles Exportbier	5C	
Kellerbier (Historical Beer)	27A1	

### Category: Pilsner

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Czech Pale Lager	3A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Czech Premium Pale Lager	3B	
German Pils	5D	
Pre-Prohibition Lager (Historical Beer)	27A6	
New Zealand Pilsner	X5	

### Category: Pale Malty European Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Munich Helles	4A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Feistbier	4B	
Helles Bock	4C	

### Category: Amber European Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
International Amber Lager	2B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Czech Amber Lager	3C	
Marzen	6A	
Vienna Lager	7A	
Altbier	7B	

### Category: Dark European Lager

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
International Dark Lager	2C	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Czech Dark Lager	3D	
Munich Dunkel	8A	
Schwarzbier	8B	

### Category: American Wheat & Blonde

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Wheat Beer	1D	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Blonde Ale	18A	
Dorada Pampeana	X1	

### Category: German Wheat & Rye

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Weissbier	10A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Dunkles Weissbier	10B	
Weizenbock	10C	
Roggenbier	27A8	
Sahti	27A9	

### Category: Pale British Ale

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Ordinary Bitter	11A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Best Bitter	11B	
Strong Bitter	11C	
British Golden Ale	12A	
Australian Sparkling Ale	12B	
English IPA	12C	

### Category: Scottish & Irish Ale

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Scottish Light	14A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Scottish Heavy	14B	
Scottish Export	14C	
Irish Red Ale	15A	

**Category: American Pale Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Pale Ale	18B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes

**Category: Amber & Brown American Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Amber Ale	19A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
California Common	19B	
American Brown Ale	19C	
Kentucky Common (Historical Beer)	27A2	

**Category: Brown British Beer**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Dark Mild	13A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
British Brown Ale	13B	
English Porter	13C	
London Brown Ale (Historical Beer)	27A4	

**Category: Irish & British Stout**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Irish Stout	15B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Irish Extra Stout	15C	
Sweet Stout	16A	
Oatmeal Stout	16B	
Tropical Stout	16C	
Foreign Export Stout	16D	

**Category: American Porter & Stout**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Porter	20A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
American Stout	20B	
Pre-Prohibition Porter (Historical Beer)	27A7	

**Category: American IPA**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American IPA	21A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes

**Category: Specialty India Pale Ale (IPA)**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Double IPA	22A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Specialty IPA (all)	21B	
Belgian IPA	21B1	
Black IPA	21B2	
Brown IPA	21B3	
Brut IPA	21B7	
Red IPA	21B4	
Rye IPA	21B5	
White IPA	21B6	
Hazy IPA	21C	
IPA Argenta	X2	

**Category: Strong American Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
American Strong Ale	22B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
American Barleywine	22C	
Wheatwine	22D	

**Category: Strong European Lager**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Dunkles Bock	6C	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Dopplebock	9A	
Eisbock	9B	

**Category: Strong British Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
British Strong Ale	17A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Old Ale	17B	
Wee Heavy	17C	
English Barleywine	17D	

**Category: Imperial Porter & Stout**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Baltic Porter	9C	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Imperial Stout	20C	

**Category: Saison**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Saison	25B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes

**Category: Belgian Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Witbier	24A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Belgian Pale Ale	24B	
Bier de Garde	24C	
Belgian Blonde	25A	
Belgian Single	26A	

**Category: Belgian Strong Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Belgian Golden Strong	25C	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Belgian Dubbel	26B	
Belgian Tripel	26C	
Belgian Dark Strong Ale	26D	

**Category: European Sour Ale**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Berliner Weisse	23A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Flanders Red Ale	23B	
Oud Bruin	23C	
Lambic	23D	
Gueuze	23E	
Fruit Lambic	23F	
Gose	23G	

**Category: Spiced Beer**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Spiced Beer	30A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Specialty Spice Beer	30D	
Autumn Seasonal Beer	30B	
Winter Seasonal Beer	30C	

**Category: Fruit Beer**

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Fruit Beer	29A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Fruit & Spice Beer	29B	
Specialty Fruit Beer	29C	
Grape Ale	29D	
Catharina Sour	X4	
Italian Grape Ale	X3	

### Category: Smoke Flavored Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Rauchbier	6B	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Lichtenhainer (Historical Beer)	27A3	
Piwo Grodziskie	27A5	
Classic Style Smoked Beer	32A	
Specialty Smoked Beer	32B	

### Category: Wood Aged Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Wood Aged Beer	33A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Specialty Wood-Aged Beer	33B	

### Category: American Wild Ale

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Brett Beer	28A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer	28B	
Wild Specialty Beer	28C	
Straight Sour Beer	28D	

### Category: Specialty Beer

Class Description	2021 Style Guidelines	Awards
Other Historical	27A	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rosettes
Alternative Grain Beer	31A	
Alternative Sugar Beer	31B	
Commercial Specialty Beer	34A	
Mixed Style Beer	34B	
Experimental Beer	34C	