



UK TEA BREWER'S CHAMPIONSHIP

1.1. The Competition aim is to:

- foster the development of high cultural traditions involving tea consumption;
- raise the prestige of careers in the tea industry
- identify promising tea industry professionals and aid their career growth and professional development
- foster professional development and exchange of ideas among specialists in the hospitality and beverage industry, the specialized retail/wholesale industry
- improve product and service quality in establishments where tea is consumed
- develop and promote new approaches to preparing and serving tea
- raise the status of tea culture among consumers

1.2. The Competition comprises events in two categories

1. Classic Tea Preparation/Tasting
2. The Signature Drink

2. Participation in the Competitions

- 2.1. Participation in a qualifying or final stage of the Competition implies that a Brewer is familiar with and agrees to comply with these Rules. A violation of the Rules at any stage of the competition may result in disqualification.
- 2.2. Any expenses necessary for competing in the Competition at any stage are the sole responsibility of the Brewers.
- 2.3. Organizers of the Competition and their authorized representatives have the right to use the name, likeness, publicly available information and competition scores of any participant in any stage of the Competition in any format, without monetary compensation, for any purpose related to the promotion of tea, tea culture and the Competition.
- 2.4. As a rule, the number of participants in the final stage of the Competition is set by the Committee. Currently the top ten competitions scores will qualify for the finals event.

3. Competition Time

- 3.1. A competitor is given 20 minutes competition time to demonstrate the skill of tea preparation by brewing and presenting three Classic Tea Beverages and one Signature Tea Beverage:
 - The following teas will be used: Black (Mountain Black from Taiwan), Oolong (Mi Lan Dan Cong from China) and Green (Sencha from Japan).
- 3.2. All beverages must be prepared in front of the judging panel, sequentially or in parallel.
- 3.3. Each competitor will face a panel of 4 judges, therefore need to present enough tea per sample for 4 tasting cups/bowls per tea. For the Classic Tea Section, the organisers will provide glass teapots and small glass tasting bowls. Each of the 3 basic teas must be presented to the judges in the small glass tasting bowls. Judges will each be served an individual sample of tea.



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3. Competition Time (continued)

For the Signature Tea, the Brewers may bring and use their own brewing and presentation equipment (i.e. tea pots, cupping bowls, glasses, cups, tasting bowls, etc).

3.3.1 Signature beverages may consist of any ingredients available, including alcohol. But the primary taste of the beverage must be the tea used, all additional ingredients should complement and enhance the tea used.

- the intention of the signature beverage is to show creativity, flair and an understanding of the qualities and flavours of the tea used and how best to bring them to life using other added ingredients. This beverage can be served hot or cold. Competitors will need to bring and use their own equipment: brewing vessels, serving vessels, ingredients and machinery, if it differs from the standard equipment available at the events.

3.4 Judges will be consistent in how they taste the teas for each competitor.

3.5 In the Classic Tea section, the Brewer may use any equipment for heating water; however, kettles and a temperature control boiler are provided. For the Classic Tea section, all Brewers will use the water provided by the organizing committee (sponsored water).

For preparation of the Brewer's Signature Tea, Brewers may bring and use their own water.

3.6. The amount of prepared beverage must be sufficient to allow each judge to adequately evaluate its quality (minimum 90mls per judge). The beverages must be served to every judge and, if possible, simultaneously.

3.7. The preparation and serving of beverages may incorporate a commentary or narrative by the Brewer, as well as any other forms of entertainment (singing, music, dance), as long as these are performed solely and personally by the Brewer.

3.8. Judges will make notes of what is explained and compare what is said with what is delivered. Higher points will be received if the notes match the experience in the cup.

3.9. The Brewer's performance is scored in the following categories: aroma, taste, aftertaste, technique, beverage presentation, time, professionalism and overall flair and efficiency. Judges record their scores in the corresponding scoring forms.

3.10. If a Brewer takes more than the allotted amount of time to complete the performance, he or she will receive a penalty. For each full extra minute, the judges deduct 5 points off the final score. For example, one extra minute results in the deduction of 5 points; 2 extra minutes result in the deduction of 10 points; 3 extra minutes will result in a deduction of 15 points.

3.11. Brewers are responsible for showing up for their performance time with all essentials needed to compete. There is limited preparation space available prior to performance time.

4. The conduct of the competition

4.1. The Competition running order will be announced a minimum of 7 days prior to the competition date. All competitors are expected to show up on time and well in advance of their practice times.



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4. The conduct of the competition (continued)

- 4.2. Depending on the number of competitors, the competition may have to be conducted in several rounds. The starting time of each round and the duration of intervals between rounds are determined by the organizing committee of the competition.
- 4.3. In addition to the time allotted for performance, each Brewer is given 5 minutes before and 5 minutes after his or her performance to set up/clean up the performance area, unless specified otherwise by the competition rules.
- 4.4. The performance area will include a table 75-90 cm in height, a working electrical outlet and a waste container.

The organisers will supply the following equipment for competitors:

- Marco 3 button MIX temperature control boiler (3 different temperature settings are available, and the organizers will set the temperatures selected by the Brewer)
- presentation tasting bowls for each tea
- tasting spoons for judges
- teapots for brewing, one for each tea with a spare
- two temperature-controlled kettles

The organisers will not supply scales or timers; these are the sole responsibility of each Brewer.

- 4.5. Any non-standard equipment used by a Brewer during performance (including musical equipment, equipment that constitutes a fire hazard and equipment that uses large amounts of electricity) must be approved in advance by the organizing committee. Musical/vocal accompaniment must not be offensive and must not violate any applicable copyright laws. Any additional equipment and decorations for use in the performance area must also be approved in advance by the organizing committee.
- 4.6. Only competitors, judges, designated volunteers, members of the organizing committee or accredited members of the press can enter the competition area.
- 4.7. The competition is facilitated by a host whose primary task is to introduce the Brewer, to signal the beginning of the timed portion of the competition, to issue time warnings (at 2 minutes and at 30 seconds before the end of the performance) and, if the Brewer wishes, to engage in a conversation with the Brewer in order to have a more rounded and authentic performance. The Brewer will signal the end of their performance by uttering the phrase "The Tea is ready".
- 4.8. If a performance is interrupted due to the failure of equipment provided by the organizing committee, the timer shall be stopped. After the equipment has been fixed, the Brewer may choose to continue the performance or to start over.
- 4.9. If a Brewer needs additional equipment during performance, he or she may retrieve such equipment from the designated storage area. In this case, the timer will NOT be stopped. A Brewer is prohibited from receiving any assistance with bringing, installing or operating any additional equipment during the performance.



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4. The conduct of the competition (continued)

- 4.10. After the performance, the Brewer must clean up the performance area with the help from designated volunteers.

5. Performance Evaluation

- 5.1. The Head Judge of the competition is responsible for coordinating all evaluation-related activities and for calculating the scores during the final stage of the Competition; he or she is also responsible for overseeing the work of the judges during qualifying rounds.
- 5.2. As a rule, judges shall be selected from among individuals who have extensive professional experience related to tea and a strong positive reputation in the industry. Occasionally, specialists from other areas whose expertise will enhance the quality of the evaluation may also be invited to serve as judges.
- 5.3. The Head Judge shall determine the total number of judges and appoint individual judges in coordination with the organizing committee of the competition. The number of judges, including the Head Judge and the Technical Judge, must be even. The Technical Judge shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Rules and with any additional competition rules set forth by the organizing committee of the competition; however, he or she does not participate in performance scoring. Persons affiliated with any of the competitors are prohibited from serving as judges, with the exception of the Technical Judge. If necessary, several groups of judges may be formed.
- 5.4. Judges must be impartial in assigning scores, entering their evaluations on the designated scoring forms.
- 5.5. The scoring rules and the format of scoring forms, including rules for deducting points for violations, must be established by the Head Judge and must be made public no later than 30 business days prior to the start of the competition.
- 5.6. The judges must be present in the immediate vicinity of the performance area. They may sit, stand or move around as they wish.
- 5.7. The judges are responsible for the quality of the evaluations and for the confidentiality of the scoring process.
- 5.8. After the end of the competition, Brewers have the right to see their scores.
- 5.9. Generally, judges perform their duties as volunteers. At the discretion of the relevant organizing committee, judges may be compensated for any reasonable work-related expenses.

6. Work by members of organizing committees

- 6.1. Generally, members of an organizing committee perform their duties on a pro bono basis. At the discretion of the relevant organizing committee, committee members may be compensated for any reasonable work-related expenses.

7. Concluding provisions

- 7.1. A Brewer has a duty to be respectful to other competitors, spectators, supporters and judges, as well as to the sponsors and organizers of the competition.



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7. Concluding provisions

- 7.2. The Champion Brewer has a duty for one year following the victory not to avoid contact with the press, to do his or her best to promote tea and tea consumption in a positive professional manner.

8. Rule violations and the appeals process

- 8.1. Adherence to the Official Rules and Regulations (hereafter “the Rules”) by organizers and participants at every stage of the Competition is mandatory.
- 8.2. A Brewer who violates any provision of the Rules may be disqualified, except in cases where such violation was unavoidable due to special circumstances.
- 8.3. A decision to disqualify a Brewer is made by the organizing committee of the competition during which the violation took place. Such a decision, together with reasons for disqualification, including a detailed description of the violation, should be communicated to the Brewer within 7 business days of the decision.
- 8.4. Potential violations of the Rules by the judges are also investigated by the organizing committee of the competition during which these violations took place. If a violation is sufficiently serious, a judge who commits it may be removed from the competition and barred from further service as a judge, temporarily or permanently. A decision to disqualify a judge, together with reasons for disqualification, including a detailed description of the violation, should be communicated to the judge within 7 business days of the decision.
- 8.5. Brewers and Judges have the right to appeal the decision to disqualify before the Committee. To do so, an appellant must submit a written statement to the Head Judge, explaining in detail his or her decision to appeal. The statement must include the name of the appellant, his or her contact information, date and time of the alleged violation, a detailed description of the situation and the action/decision that was taken by the appellant. The appeal must be filed before the Committee within 7 business days of the date on which a written copy of the decision to disqualify was received by the appellant. The appeal shall be decided during a session of the Committee, and a written decision signed by the Head Judge shall be delivered to the appellant no later than 30 business days after the date of the appeal.
- 8.6. Any other decisions concerning competition rules, judging and outcomes can also be appealed by any participant in the competition. To do so, an appellant must submit a written statement to the organizing committee of the competition during which the disputed situation took place. The statement must include the name of the appellant, his or her contact information, date and time of the incident, a detailed description of the situation and the action/decision that was taken by the appellant. The appeal must be decided within 7 business days and a decision delivered to the appellant. If the decision is made by a national organizing committee, a copy of the decision must be submitted to the Committee within 7 business days of the decision. The decision of a national organizing committee may be appealed to the Committee. To do so, the appellant must submit a request to the Committee within 30 business days of the decision by the national organizing committee.



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8. Rule violations and the appeals process (continued)

- 8.7. Any decision by the Committee is final and cannot be appealed.
- 8.8. Any questions/issues that are left unresolved by these Rules shall be decided by the Organizing Committee of the Competition.



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