World Beer Cup and World Cider Cup Style Guideline Updates for 2027

New Beer Style Additions

- **Hybrid/Crossover Beer and Multi-Adjunct Beer:** Two new guidelines join Other Strong Beer in the Specialty Beer category.
  - **Hybrid/Crossover Beer** recognizes combinations of distinct established styles or style families.
  - **Multi-Adjunct Beer** recognizes beers combining two or more specialty ingredients that would ordinarily qualify for different ingredient-driven categories (i.e. Coffee + Fruit, Chocolate + Herbs + Chiles, etc.)
- **Gluten-Free Beer:** Expanded into Classic Gluten-Free Ale or Lager, Hoppy Gluten-Free Beer, and Specialty Gluten-Free Beer.
- **Italian-Style Grape Ale:** Three new subcategories for Red, White, and Sour Grape Ales, balancing beer and wine character and allowing up to 49% of fermentables from grapes.
- **Alsatian-Style Pilsener:** New guideline emphasizing a rounded bitterness and a delicate fresh-herbal or floral hop profile. Currently a subcategory of International-Style Pilsener, but if enough entries are registered, it could become it's own standalone award category.
- **New Zealand-Style Pilsener:** New standalone guideline emphasizing New Zealand hop expression, crispness, drinkability, and a perceptible minerality.

New Cider Style Additions

- **Low & No Alcohol Cider:** New guideline for ciders containing up to 3% ABV.
- **Natural Cider:** New guideline for low-intervention ciders, including spontaneous and/or malolactic fermentations.
- **Ice Cider or Fortified Cider:** New combined cider category with distinct descriptions and technical-information requirements for concentrated ice cider and cider strengthened with fruit spirits.

Style Reclassifications/Regrouping

- **Specialty India Pale Ale:** Experimental India Pale Ale is renamed Specialty India Pale Ale. American-Style Black Ale (Black IPA) is also grouped as a substyle within this category. Related references throughout the guidelines are updated from Experimental IPA to Specialty IPA.
- **Baltic Porter / American-Style Imperial Stout and Porter:** American-Style Imperial Porter is grouped with American-Style Imperial Stout. Baltic-Style Porter becomes a standalone category.
- **Barley Wine or Wheat Wine-style Ale:** American-Style Wheat Wine Ale moves from Other Strong Beer to join American-Style and British-Style Barley Wine Ale.
- **American-Style Sour Ales & Wood & Barrel Aged Sour Ale Groupings:** American-Style Sour Ale and Fruited American-Style Sour Ale are grouped together. Wood- and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer and Fruited Wood- and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer form a separate group.
- **Belgian-Style or Spontaneous Sour Ale:** Wild Beer moves from Experimental Beer to join Belgian-Style Lambic and Belgian-Style Gueuze. The group name is broadened to reflect these styles.
- **Pale Ale groupings:** Classic Australian-Style Pale Ale and Australian-Style Pale Ale join International-Style Pale Ale. New Zealand-Style Pale Ale becomes a standalone category.

- **South German wheat beers:** Bernsteinfarbenes Weizen joins Dunkel Weizen in a South German-Style Amber to Dark Weissbier category. Hefeweizen and Kristal Weizen remain grouped as South German-Style Weissbier.
- **European-Style Amber Ale:** French-Style Biere de Garde and Belgian-Style Speciale Belge are grouped together.
- **Oud Bruin and Flanders Red:** The combined Belgian-Style Flanders Oud Bruin or Oud Red Ale guideline is split into distinct Belgian-Style Oud Bruin and Flanders-Style Red Ale descriptions within a shared category.
- **Belgian Strong Ales:** Belgian-Style Strong Blonde Ale and Belgian-Style Strong Dark Ale become standalone categories. Other Belgian-Style Strong Specialty Ale and Other Belgian-Style Abbey Ale remain grouped together.
- **English-style categories:** Pale and Dark Mild Ales are grouped separately from bitters. Ordinary Bitter and Special/Best Bitter join English-Style Summer Ale and Classic English-Style Pale Ale. English-Style Extra Special Bitter joins English-Style India Pale Ale;
- **Export and American Stout:** Export Stout and American-Style Stout are grouped together.
- **Light Lager groupings:** Mexican-Style Light Lager joins International-Style Light Lager and German-Style Leichtbier. Contemporary American-Style Light Lager joins Contemporary American-Style Lager. American-Style Light Lager becomes standalone.
- **American-Style Lager:** American-Style Malt Liquor moves from Other Strong Beer to join American-Style Lager.
- **Amber and Dark Lager groupings:** German-Style Maerzen and Franconian-Style Rotbier form German-Style Amber Lager; Czech-Style and Mexican-Style Amber Lager remain grouped as International-Style Amber Lager. Czech-Style Dark Lager becomes standalone, while European-, American-, and Mexican-Style Dark Lagers remain grouped.
- **Dry and Sweet Ciders:** Tannic Cider, No/Low-Tannin Cider, and Fruited Cider each receive separate Dry and Sweet guidelines. Tannic and Fruited Dry/Sweet versions remain paired within their respective categories; No/Low-Tannin Dry and Sweet are separate award categories.

Style Guideline Updates

- **Various guideline maintenance and updates made to the following categories:** Classic French & Belgian-Style Saison, Belgian-Style Oud Bruin, Flanders-Style Red Ale, Dessert or Pastry Beer (both unaged & wood-aged versions), Barley Wine (American & British), Non-Alcohol Categories
- **IPA (lager versions) and hoppy-lager routing:** Fresh Hop IPAs may be entered as Specialty IPA or in their appropriate IPA category. All lager-yeast IPAs at 6% ABV and above should compete in their appropriate West Coast, New Zealand, American, or Specialty IPA category.