



WELCOME TO THE 2024 MONTANA BEER AWARDS

KEY DATES

NEW! Early Bird Registration!!

December 18-31, 2023 - All beers will be registered online through the Beer Awards Platform.

Standard Registration

January 1, 2024 - All beers will be registered online through BAP.

Registration Closes

January 31 - Registration closes at 11:59PM MST

Sample Drop-off Window

February 12-16 - Samples can be dropped off at Lewis & Clark Brewing Company, Helena, MT between 8am and 5pm *on these dates only. No late drop offs, no exceptions.*

Judging Dates

February 22-24 - Judging takes place between 9am and 5pm.

Awards Ceremony

February 24, 5-9pm - Awards Ceremony and Celebration at Lewis & Clark Brewing

WELCOME!

We're excited to bring you Montana's first commercial, state-wide beer competition.

Overview and Philosophy:

Montana's thriving craft beer industry is truly something special, and something we know every single one of us takes great pride in. Montana ranks #3 in the US in breweries per capita, with almost 100 breweries in our state of a little over a million people. With that said, it's about time we celebrated each other and the incredible, unique, passionate work that we do. Welcome to the inaugural Montana Beer Awards!

2024 Rules:

- All beers entered into the competition must be produced in a commercial brewery within the state of Montana. Breweries-in-planning and homebrewers are not eligible.
- All beers entered into the competition must be brewed, fermented, and packaged in the state of Montana. Breweries with additional facilities in other states may not enter beers produced in those locations.
- Any brewery licensed in the state of Montana can enter. The cost per entry is \$45 for Montana Brewers Association members and \$65 for non-MBA members.
- No single beer may be entered more than once or in multiple categories

HOW TO ENTER

Please read through the following guidance carefully. Entering your beer into the appropriate category will help ensure that its given the best chance possible. There's nothing more of a bummer than getting feedback that says "great beer, entered in the wrong category"!

2024 Style Guidelines and Entry Categories:
We have chosen to use the 2023 Brewers Association style guidelines for the 2024 competition. We feel that aligning our competition with these guidelines will help give you the most useful feedback when making adjustments for any beers you may also choose to enter in World Beer Cup or the Great American Beer Fest.

The 2023 Brewer's Association Style Guidelines can be found [here in PDF](#) and [here](#) on their website.

Once you've decided the best category fit for your beers, you will enter them on the Beer Awards Platform, which can be accessed here: <https://beerawardsplatform.com/montana-beer-awards>

Styles will be grouped together to form 19 award categories. A list of the award categories and the styles that fit under them is available on page 4 of this document.

Entry Recommendations:

- Please read the style guidelines carefully to ensure your beer is getting judged against the style guidelines that most accurately represent it.
- If the beer style asks for specifications (for example, clarifying what fruit is present in a fruited beer), it is most helpful to the judges if you provide that information. While beers missing specifications will not be disqualified, they are inherently at a disadvantage, as it leaves judges to make their best guesses about the beer.
- If pouring instructions are not given, it will be assumed that bottles should not be roused during pouring, and our stewards will do their very best to minimize rousing, although some is to be expected.



JUDGING INFORMATION

Judges will be using an online judging software called the Beer Awards Platform, which is used by beer competitions around the world including the Best of Craft Beer Awards, the Indie Beer Cup, and the Canada Beer Cup. This platform helps streamline everything from entering beers, to the day-of judging, to receiving your feedback. We're excited to be able to offer this platform, which will enhance the experience for both entrants and judges.

All judges will have proven experience in beer tasting and sensory, whether through previous judging experience, formal sensory training, Cicerone or BJCP program certifications and courses, and/or commercial brewing experience.

While judges' conversations at tables will be recorded, all recordings may not be available to listen to after the awards ceremony. Entrants will be able to listen to all available conversations, not just the categories their beers were entered in. The intent behind recording is provide entrants with a "seat at the table" so to speak, as we hope that being able to listen to the talk at the table will provide additional insight and feedback beyond any written notes received.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

In addition to the awards for the 20 categories of beer, we will be awarding:

Small Brewery of the Year (<500 bbls)

Medium Brewery of the Year (501 - 2000 bbls)

Large Brewery of the Year (2001+ bbls)

Breweries must enter at least 2 beers to be considered for Brewery of the Year. Each medal a brewery wins will be given points, 6 for gold, 5 for silver, 4 for bronze.

In case of a tie, the tiebreaker criteria, in order, are: total number of medals won, total gold medals won, total number of entries in gold-medal winning categories.

Additionally, we will be presenting one brewery with the 2024 Impact Award. The Impact Award will recognize the incredible work that one Montana Brewery is doing within their community - folks who are not only making great beer, but also improving the community that surrounds them. Nominees will be submitted by breweries around the state and the winner will be chosen by a committee. Stay tuned for more information on how to nominate a brewery!

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Awards Ceremony in 2024 will take place at Lewis & Clark Brewing Company from 5-8pm on Saturday, February 24. The awards will be followed by live music. The awards ceremony and the the celebration afterwards will be open to the public for \$10 per person.

Breweries who entered beer in the competition will receive two free attendees to the awards ceremony. Additional attendees from breweries are certainly encouraged, but will just be asked to pay the \$10 entry fee.

The Great Northern Best Western in Helena will be offering a room block for Awards Ceremony attendees at a discounted rate. More information on the hotel block to come!



Award Categories and Included Styles (Using 2023 Brewers Association Style Guidelines)

AWARD CATEGORY 1: NORTH AMERICAN LIGHT LAGERS

American-Style Lager
Contemporary American-Style Lager
American-Style Light Lager
Contemporary American-Style Light Lager
American-Style Pilsener
Contemporary American-Style Pilsener
American-Style India Pale Lager
American-Style Malt Liquor
Australasian, Latin American, or Tropical-Style Light Lager

AWARD CATEGORY 2: EUROPEAN LIGHT LAGERS

International-Style Pilsener
German-Style Leichtbier
German Style Pilsener
Bohemian-Style Pilsener
Munich-Style Helles
Dortmunder/European-Style Export

AWARD CATEGORY 3: AMBER AND DARK LAGERS

American-Style Amber Lager
American-Style Maerzen/Oktobertfest
American-Style Dark Lager
Vienna-Style Lager
Franconian-Style Rotbier
German-Style Maerzen
German-Style Oktoberfest/Wiesn
Munich-Style Dunkel
European-Style Dark Lager
German-Style Schwarzbier

AWARD CATEGORY 4: STRONG LAGERS

Baltic-Style Porter
German-Style Heller Bock/Maibock
Traditional German-Style Bock
German-Style Doppelbock
German-Style Eisbock

AWARD CATEGORY 5: LIGHT ALES/HYBRID

Golden or Blonde Ale
German-Style Koelsch
American-Style Cream Ale
English-Style Summer Ale
English-Style Pale Mild Ale

AWARD CATEGORY 6: WHEAT ALES

South German-Style Hefeweizen
South German-Style Kristal Weizen
German-Style Leichtes Weizen
South German-Style Bernsteinfarbenes Weizen
South German-Style Dunkel Weizen
South German-Style Weizenbock
American-Style Wheat Beer

AWARD CATEGORY 7: PALE ALES

Classic English-Style Pale Ale
American-Style Pale Ale
American-Style Strong Pale Ale
International-Style Pale Ale
Classic Australian-Style Pale Ale
Australian-Style Pale Ale
New Zealand-Style Pale Ale

AWARD CATEGORY 8: INDIA PALE ALES

British-Style India Pale Ale
Session India Pale Ale
American-Style India Pale Ale
West Coast-Style India Pale Ale
American-Style Imperial or Double India Pale Ale
New Zealand-Style India Pale Ale

**AWARD CATEGORY 9:
HAZY PALE ALES**

Juicy or Hazy Pale Ale
Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale
Juicy or Hazy India Pale Ale
Juicy or Hazy Imperial or Double India Pale Ale

**AWARD CATEGORY 10:
AMBER ALES/HYBRID**

Ordinary Bitter
Speical Bitter or Best Bitter
Extra Special Bitter
Irish-Style Red Ale
American-Style Amber/Red Ale
German-Style Altbier
California Common Beer
Kentucky Common Beer

**AWARD CATEGORY 11:
SCOTTISH STYLE ALES**

Scottish-Style Light Ale
Scottish-Style Heavy Ale
Scottish-Style Export Ale
Scotch Ale or Wee Heavy

**AWARD CATEGORY 12:
BROWN AND BLACK ALES**

English-Style Dark Mild Ale
English-Style Brown Ale
Brown Porter
Robust Porter
Sweet Stout or Cream Stout
Oatmeal Stout
Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout
Export-Style Stout
American-Style Brown Ale
American-Style Black Ale
American-Style Stout

**AWARD CATEGORY 13:
STRONG ALES**

Strong Ale
Old Ale
British-Style Imperial Stout
British-Style Barley Wine Ale
American-Style Imperial Porter
American-Style Imperial Stout
Double Hopy Red Ale
Imperial Red Ale
American-Style Barley Wine Ale
American-Style Wheat Wine Ale

**AWARD CATEGORY 14:
BELGIAN & FRENCH STYLE ALES**

Belgian-Style Table Beer
Belgian-Style Session Ale
Belgian-Style Speciale Belge
Belgian-Style Blonde Ale
Belgian-Style Strong Blonde Ale
Belgian-Style Strong Dark Ale
Belgian-Style Dubbel
Belgian-Style Tripel
Belgian-Style Quadrupel
Belgian-Style Witbier
Classic French & Belgian-Style Saison
French-Style Biere de Garde
Other Belgian-Style Ale

**AWARD CATEGORY 15:
SOUR ALES/WILD ALES**

American-Style Sour Ale
Berliner-Style Weisse
Leipzig-Style Gose
Contemporary-Style Gose
Belgian-Style Flanders Oud Bruin or Oud Red Ale
Belgian-Style Lambic
Traditional Belgian-Style Gueze
Contemporary Belgian-Style Spontaneous
Fermented Ale
Brett Beer
Mixed-Culture Brett Beer
Wild Beer

**AWARD CATEGORY 16:
SMOKE AND WOOD FLAVORED BEER**

Smoke Porter
Grodziskie
Swedish-Style Gotlandsdricke
Bamberg-Style Weiss Rauchbier
Bamberg-Style Helles Rauchbier
Bamberg-Style Maerzen Rauchbier
Bamberg-Style Bock Rauchbier
Wood- and Barrel-Aged Beer
Wood- and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer
Smoke Beer

**AWARD CATEGORY 17:
FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND SPICED BEERS**

American-Style Fruited Sour Ale
Belgian-Style Fruit Lambic
American-Style Fruit Beer
Fruit Wheat Beer
Belgian-Style Fruit Beer
Field Beer
Pumpkin Spice Beer
Pumpkin/Squash Beer
Chocolate or Cocoa Beer
Dessert Stout or Pastry Stout
Coffee Beer
Chili Pepper Beer
Herb and Spice Beer
Specialty Honey Beer

**AWARD CATEGORY 18:
EXPERIEMENTAL BEERS**

American-Belgo-Style Ale
German-Style Rye Ale
Specialty Saison
Adambier
Dutch-Style Kuit, Kuyt or Koyt
Finnish-Style Sahti
Breslau-Style Schoeps
Hybrid/Mixed Lagers or Ales
Session Beer
Kellerbier or Zwickelbier
Specialty Beer
Rye Beer
Ginjo Beer or Sake-Yeast Beer
Fresh Hop Beer
Aged Beer
Experimental Beer
Experimental India Pale Ale
Historical Beer
Other Strong Ale or Lager
Gluten-Free Beer

**AWARD CATEGORY 19:
ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS**

Please note: the Brewers Association Guidelines do not include alternative products, but as many breweries in Montana make these products, we wanted to offer the opportunity to acknowledge these products and for breweries to get feedback. For these categories ONLY, the Montana Beer Awards will use the [2023 North American Brewers Association Style Guidelines](#).

Low-Carb/Low Calorie Hard Seltzers
Hard Seltzers
Hard Soft Drinks (Sodas)
Spirit Inspired Flavored Malt Beverages
Hop Water
Non-Alcoholic Beers

