

Homebrewing (Adult)

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

FAIR CONTACT INFORMATION

MARIN COUNTY FAIR FAIR OFFICE & EXHIBIT HALL	20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903
WEBSITE	www.marinfair.org
EMAIL	FairExhibits@MarinCounty.Gov
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS	Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
FAIR OFFICE HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
MARIN COUNTY FAIR HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS STAFF

HOMEBREWING (ADULT)

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS MANAGER	Jennifer Olvera
ONLINE SUBMISSIONS COORDINATOR	Carole Sanders
DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR	Marin Society of Homebrewers (MaSH)

For a list of Sponsors, visit www.marinfair.org after June 1, 2026.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

ONLINE ENTRY FORMS DUE	JUNE 4, 2026
EARLY ENTRY DROP OFF (OFFSITE)	MAY 15 - JUNE 6, 1:00 pm - THE OAK BARREL – BERKELEY, CA
EARLY ENTRY DROP OFF (OFFSITE)	MAY 15 - JUNE 6, 1:00 pm - POND FARM BREWING, SAN RAFAEL, CA

EARLY ENTRY DROP OFF (OFFSITE)
ENTRY RECEIVING & DROP OFF (ONSITE)
ENTRY RELEASED

MAY 15 - JUNE 6, 1:00 pm – THE BEVERAGE PEOPLE, FERMENTER’S WAREHOUSE, SANTA ROSA, CA

JUNE 5 2026, - 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm & JUNE 6 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

JULY 6, 10:00 pm – 6:00 pm

The full Competitive Exhibits Calendar is available on www.marinfair.org

REGISTRATION

To register for the 2026 **Homebrewing** Competition, please visit <https://Reggiebeer.com>

To register for the 2026 **Homebrewing Labels** competition, please visit <https://marin.fairwire.com/>

ENTRY DELIVERY AND PICK UP

Please refer to the Competition Calendar for exact dates and times.

Drop off is located at the Marin County Fair Exhibit Hall, located at **20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903**. Follow the signage at the Exhibit Hall for the exact location.



Claim checks will be provided when exhibits are delivered and are required to pick up your entry on entry pick up date.

DEPARTMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Local and State Rules govern this competition.

1. **ELIGIBILITY** - Open to all California Amateur Homebrewers over 21 years of age. Amateur is defined as a person who does not hold an Fermentation Science degree, and who makes homebrew only non-commercially, without assistance from any commercial brewing facility. **No commercial brews may be entered in this competition.**
2. **ELIGIBILITY** – Entries may not be brewed wholly or in part using the facilities or equipment of a commercial brewing or brew on premises of said establishment.

ENTRY INFORMATION

3. **ENTRY FEES** - \$10.00 per Entry | \$4.00 per Label
 - a. Fees are NON-refundable.
4. **ENTRY LIMIT** – 1 Entry per Style. (No limit per class)
 - a. **Exhibitors must provide three (3) bottles or cans per entry.**
5. **ENTRY REMOVAL** - Accepted entries shall not be removed from exhibition until the Fair closes.
6. **ENTRY RELEASE** - All entries at the fair will become the property of MaSH and will not be returned.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

7. To assure the anonymity of Exhibitors, Entries must meet the following standardization requirements:
 - a. Each entry must consist of three (3) 12 oz. plain brown (or green) bottles. (For example 2 entries is 6 bottles total). Unlabeled cans also be accepted.
 - b. **NO** identifying marks may be present on the bottles such as raised lettering, embossing, or labels.
 - c. All bottles must have plain (or blacked out using a marking pen) crown caps.
8. Each submitted bottle should have the Exhibitor's name, class number, style name and/or number identified (Example: John Doe, **13, Irish Stout**).
 - a. Labels are to be affixed by rubber band - no tape or adhesive may be used. See http://www.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP_BottleID.pdf for label template.
 - b. Entry categories marked with an asterisk (*) must include BJCP required details in the description field on the entry form (e.g. strength, special ingredients, color, etc.) as detailed for that style in the BJCP 2021 guidelines, https://www.bjcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2021_Guidelines_Beer_1.25.pdf

JUDGING

9. This competition is sanctioned by the *American Homebrew Association* (AHA) and the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP).
 - a. The competition is using the BJCP scoring system and 2021 Style Guidelines. (Refer to the BJCP website for more information: <http://www.bjcp.org/stylecenter.php>)
10. The Marin Society of Homebrewers (MaSH), whose members coordinate the judging, reserve the right to make all final decisions regarding entry eligibility and contest procedures.
 - a. All entries become the property of MaSH and will not be returned.
11. Fair Management retains the right to refuse or disqualify any entries that do not meet specifications of the rules of competition.
12. Fair Management reserves the right to combine judging groups based on the number of entries.

- a. All possible effort will be made to combine similar styles. All brews in combined judging groups will be judged according to the style they were originally entered.

DISPLAY

13. Installation of all items is completed by a professional team whose decisions are final. No alterations or changes (e.g. location, lighting, etc.) may be made by the exhibitor or any staff member at any time.

PUBLICITY

14. The Marin County Fair reserves the right to photograph any work in the exhibition for educational, catalog, website, or publicity purposes.

LIABILITY

15. The County of Marin, Marin County Fair, and/or its contractors will not be responsible for loss or damage which may occur from any cause. Any entries received damaged will not be juried.

DIVISION 9 | HOMEBREWING

Entry Fee - \$10.00 per entry

Specify Beer Style within class during registration (*Example if entering Class 1, specify: Cream Ale*)

CLASSES (Submission Categories)

Styles Sorted Using Style Family

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

1. PALE LAGER

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

2. PILSNER

- 3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
- 5D. German Pils
- 27. Historical Beer: Pre-Pro Lager

3. AMBER LAGER

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

4. DARK LAGER

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

5. BOCK

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

6. PALE ALE

- 1C. Cream Ale
- 5B. Kölsch
- 12A. British Golden Ale
- 12B. Australian Sparkling Ale
- 18A. Blonde Ale
- 18B. American Pale Ale
- 24B. Belgian Pale Ale
- 25A. Belgian Blond Ale
- 25B. Saison
- 26A. Belgian Single

7. IPA

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

8. AMBER ALE

- 7B. Altbier
- 11A. Ordinary Bitter
- 11B. Best Bitter
- 11C. Strong Bitter
- 14A. Scottish Light
- 14B. Scottish Heavy
- 14C. Scottish Export
- 15A. Irish Red Ale
- 19A. American Amber Ale
- 24C. Bière de Garde
- 26B. Belgian Dubbel
- 27. Historical Beer: Kentucky Common

9. BROWN ALE

- 13A. Dark Mild
- 13B. British Brown Ale
- 19C. American Brown Ale
- 27. Historical Beer: London Brown Ale

10. PORTER

- 9C. Baltic Porter
- 13C. English Porter
- 20A. American Porter
- 27. Historical Beer: Pre-Pro Porter

11. STOUT

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

12. STRONG ALE

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

13. WHEAT BEER

- 1D. American Wheat Beer
- 10A. Weissbier
- 10B. Dunkles Weissbier
- 10C. Weizenbock
- 23A. Berliner Weisse
- 23D. Lambic
- 23E. Gueuze
- 23F. Fruit Lambic
- 23G. Gose
- 24A. Witbier
- 27. Historical Beer: Piwo Grodziskie
- 27. Historical Beer: Lichtenhainer
- 27. Historical Beer: Roggenbier
- 27. Historical Beer: Sahti

14. SOUR AND WILD ALE

- 23B. Flanders Red
- 23C. Oud Bruin
- 28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer
- 28C. Wild Specialty Beer
- 28D. Straight Sour Beer
- 28A. Brett Beer

15. FRUIT, SPICE, HERB, & VEGETABLE BEER

- 29A. Fruit Beer
- 29B. Fruit and Spice Beer
- 29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
- 29D. Grape Ale
- 30A. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer
- 30B. Autumn Seasonal Beer
- 30C. Winter Seasonal Beer
- 30D. Specialty Spice Beer

16. SPECIALTY BEER

- 31A. Alternative Grain Beer
- 31B. Alternative Sugar Beer
- 34A. Commercial Specialty Beer
- 34B. Mixed-Style Beer
- 34C. Experimental Beer

17. SMOKED AND WOOD AGED BEER

- 32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer
- 32B. Specialty Smoked Beer
- 33A. Wood-Aged Beer
- 33B. Specialty Wood-Aged Beer

Please Note - Meads & Ciders are not available in the 2026 Competition guide.

In addition to the general submission categories, there will be a Mini-Best of Show competition for American Style Beers to honor the Stars & Stripes theme of the 2026 Marin County Fair. Any “United States” beer judged in the general categories that receive a score of 35 or above will be entered in the American Mini Best of Show and there will be one winner in this category.

18. UNITED STATES

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| A. 1A. American Light Lager | I. 19C. American Brown Ale | Q. 22D. Wheatwine |
| B. 1B. American Lager | J. 20A. American Porter | R. 27. Historical Beer: Kentucky Common |
| C. 1C. Cream Ale | K. 20B. American Stout | S. 27. Historical Beer: Pre-Pro Lager |
| D. 1D. American Wheat Beer | L. 21A. American IPA | T. 27. Historical Beer: Pre-Pro Porter |
| E. 18A. Blonde Ale | M. 21B. Specialty IPA | |
| F. 18B. American Pale Ale | N. 22A. Double IPA | |
| G. 19A. American Amber Ale | O. 22B. American Strong Ale | |
| H. 19B. California Common | P. 22C. American Barleywine | |

AWARDS | AMERICAN | HOMEBREWING

Offered per Class at the discretion of the Judges

FIRST PLACE	\$15 & ROSETTE
SECOND PLACE	RIBBON
THIRD PLACE	RIBBON
HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON

SPECIAL AWARDS

OVERALL BEST OF SHOW	\$50 & ROSETTE
RESERVE BEST OF SHOW (UP TO 4)	\$25 & ROSETTE

DIVISION 10 | HOMEBREW LABELS

Entry Fee - \$4.00 per entry

Entries must follow these guidelines:

- Create your own original Homebrew Label.
- Labels should be affixed to a piece of cardstock or any other stiff paper.
- Labels MUST be TTB compliant to qualify: please refer to page 13 and 14 of <https://www.ttb.gov/images/pdfs/presentations/part6.pdf>.
- Entry limit: 4 entries per person.

CLASSES (Submission Categories)

1. **Original Homebrew Label** | Must be TTB compliant

AWARDS | AMERICAN | HOMEBREW LABELS

Offered per Class at the Discretion of the Judges

FIRST PLACE	\$15 & RIBBON	THIRD PLACE	RIBBON
SECOND PLACE	\$10 & RIBBON	HONORABLE MENTION	RIBBON