



**WORLD
BARISTA
CHAMPIONSHIP**

WBC Rules and Regulations

WBC Rules and Regulations

Version: VIII

**Approved by the
WBC Board of Directors
Operative from**

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1. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

1.1. PARTICIPANTS

1.1.1. National Qualifications

The World Barista Championship (WBC) is only open to qualified national champions as determined by a WBC sanctioned national championship supervised by the relative WBC Licensed National Body. The WBC is only open to one (1) competitor from each nation representing a WBC Licensed National Body.

1.1.2. Nationality

Competitors must hold a valid passport of the country they represent or have 24 months of documented employment or scholastic curriculum in the country they represent.

1.1.3. Multiple passport

In case of multiple passports, the contestant must choose one country and qualify through this respective sanctioned national championship.

1.1.4. Exemption of participation

If a national champion is unable to participate in the WBC for any reason, the runners up from the national competition can replace the champion. This replacement must be granted by the WBC. A written request must be sent by the WBC Licensed National Body to the WBC Event Manager.

1.1.5. Expenses

The WBC is not liable for any of the competitor's expenses. If a competitor cannot afford these expenses, it is their responsibility to see that his/her Licensed National Body or other outside party cover these expenses.

1.2. APPLICATION

1.2.1. Competitor Registration Form

Competitors must complete the WBC Competitor Registration Form online found on our website: www.worldbaristachampionship.com and must also email or fax a scanned copy of their valid passport or legal documentation of 24 months of employment or scholastic curriculum in the country they represent to the WBC Event Manager. All approved national champions will receive a confirmation letter that will be sent to the competitor via email within two weeks of receipt of the online registration form and valid passport or legal documentation.

1.2.2. Last Date To Apply

Competitors must submit the online competitor registration form and valid passport or legal documentation six weeks prior to the WBC.

1.2.3. Application Exemption

If a WBC sanctioned national championship organizer is unable to conduct their national competition in due time of the cut off date requirements, the Licensed National Body must apply for the nation's participation to compete in the WBC in writing to the event organizer. It is the WBC event organizers final decision to accept or reject late applications for countries to enter the WBC.

1.3. NATIONAL BODIES DEFINITION

National Bodies are defined as an association or group of individuals who collectively take responsibility for the organization and execution of the recognized, qualifying National Barista Championship. These bodies should be comprised of a broad cross section of representatives from the Specialty Coffee Community in that given country.

1.4. APPLICATION

1.4.1. National Body Licensing Application Form

The “National Body Licensing Application” can be found online at our website: www.worldbaristachampionship.com. Interested parties must be representative of the specialty coffee community in that given country. Applications should be sent to the corresponding hemisphere coordinator. Approval will be determined by the WBC Board.

1.4.2. Terms of License

There is only one National Body allowed per country. The National Body License will last indefinitely until it is terminated. Refer to section 1.6 for termination information.

1.5. REGISTRATION FEE

There is no registration fee for the National Body Application. There is a registration fee of **US\$ 250** upon the filing of the “Competition Sanctioning Form”, which is to be filed annually, concurrently with each national competition. The Competition Sanctioning Form can be found online at our website: www.worldbaristachampionship.com.

1.6. TERMINATION

Either the WBC or the National Body may terminate the National Body Licensing Agreement at any time with written notice to the other party.

1.6.1. Terms of Termination

- A. Upon termination the National Body will have no further right to the title of National Body for the WBC.
- B. Upon termination the National Body will have no further right to coordinate the National Barista Championship.
- C. Upon termination the National Body is obligated to produce all information collected as National Body to the WBC.
- D. Any sponsorships, contracts, bookings, or commitments will be presented to the WBC.

1.7. OBLIGATIONS

1.7.1. Information

- A. The National Body is responsible for submitting all proper paperwork to the Hemisphere Coordinator or the WBC Administrator.
- B. The National Body is responsible for relaying any updated contact information or information relevant to the national barista competition.
- C. The National Body is responsible for gathering all the documents provided by the WBC on the website, www.worldbaristachampionship.com.

1.7.2. National Barista Championships

- A. The National Body is obligated to host an annual National Barista Championship in accordance with the “Competition Sanctioning Criteria” and the “WBC Rules and Regulations.” These documents can be found at www.worldbaristachampionship.com.
- B. The National Body can coordinate, or appoint another party to coordinate the National Barista Championship.

- C. The National Body is obligated to file all the necessary paperwork regarding the National Barista Competition with the Hemisphere Coordinator or the WBC Administrator.
- D. The National Body and its members should not be involved in any manner either directly or indirectly in any other competition, which competes against the WBC structure.
- E. The WBC will not manage or take ownership in any coordination of the National Barista Championship.

1.7.3. National Champion

- A. The National Body is responsible for identifying the correct National Champion and providing their current information.
- B. The National Body must cover the travel and lodging expenses for the National Champion to attend the WBC. The NB can find sponsorship to cover such expenses if necessary.
- C. The National Body is encouraged to plan activities for the National Champion during the champion's reigning year.
- D. The WBC will not manage or take ownership of any coordination for the schedule of the National Champion.

1.8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The WBC's Intellectual Property Rights are any and all rights pertaining to inventions, patents, copyrights, design rights, trade marks, trade names, service marks, data base rights, trade secrets, and know-how (whether registered or unregistered) and all applications for any of them anywhere in the world.

1.8.1. Ownership and Usage

- A. The WBC owns Intellectual Property Rights including the name "World Barista Championship" and the logo.
- B. The WBC grants usage of the logo to the National Body for the purpose of the National Barista Championship only.
- C. The National Body is not permitted to alter the WBC logo or name.

2. THE WBC COMPETITION

One (1) Head Judge, four (4) Sensory Judges and two (2) Technical Judges will evaluate each approved WBC competitor. All judges will use the WBC approved scoring sheets.

2.1. PERFORMANCE – BEVERAGE TO BE SERVED

- A. Each competitor shall serve four Sensory Judges a single espresso, a single cappuccino and a signature beverage of their choice making a total of twelve drinks within fifteen minutes.
- B. All drinks must be espresso based and entirely without alcohol.
- C. The order in which these twelve drinks are served is the competitors' decision.
- D. The four drinks of each category must be identical in content and served at the same time.
- E. All four drinks within each category must be prepared using the same coffee.
- F. Competitors can prepare each category of drinks (i.e. the espressos, cappuccinos, and signature beverages) using different coffee.
- G. Competitors may produce as many drinks as they like during the competition. Only the drinks served to the judges will be evaluated.

2.2. BEVERAGE DEFINITION

2.2.1. Espresso

- A. An espresso is a **one ounce / 30 ml** liquid including crema, +/- 5 ml is allowed.
- B. Each single espresso should be produced with an appropriate and consistent amount of ground coffee.
- C. Espresso shall be brewed at a temperature between **195-205 degrees Fahrenheit / 90.5-96 degrees Celsius**. (Refer to section 2.6 WBC Espresso Machine).
- D. Machine brewing pressure will be **8.5 to 9.5** atmospheres. (Refer to section 2.6 WBC Espresso Machine).
- E. Extraction time must be between **20 to 30 seconds**.
- F. Espressos must be served in a **2 to 3 ounce / 60 to 90 ml** cup with a handle.
- G. Espressos should be served to the judges immediately complete with spoon, napkin, sugar and water.

2.2.2. Cappuccino

- A. A Cappuccino is a beverage of ratios, producing a harmonious balance of one (1) single shot of espresso, steamed milk and frothed milk.
- B. A traditional cappuccino is a **5 to 6 ounce / 150 to 180 ml beverage**.
- C. A cappuccino should be served in a **5 to 6-ounce / 150 to 180 ml cup** with a handle.
- D. Any additional toppings, spices or powdered flavourings are not allowed.

2.2.3. Signature Beverage

- A. A signature beverage is a freestyle espresso based beverage created during the competition time by the competitor.
- B. A distinct taste of espresso must be present.
- C. Alcohol is not allowed.
- D. The judges must be able to drink the signature beverage without the use of a spoon etc.
- E. No ingredients or substances other than ground coffee may be placed in the portafilter.

2.2.3.1. Score Sheet Penalties

- I. If alcohol is discovered as an ingredient in the signature beverage, the signature beverage will receive zero points on all points available on the sensory score sheets in the signature beverage category.

- II. If ingredients or substances other than ground coffee are placed in a portafilter the competitor's signature beverage will receive zero points on all points available on the technical and sensory score sheets in the signature beverage category.

2.3. PERFORMANCE TIME

2.3.1. Start

Time is taken from the moment the barista gives the start signal and presses the button on the remote control attached to the clock.

2.3.2. End

Time is stopped (ended) when the competitor presses the stop button on the remote control attached to the clock or raises their hand and states "time". The Head Judge is responsible for recording the competitor's total time, in liaison with the timekeeper, on the Head judges score sheet.

2.3.3. Communication

Competitors are not allowed to continue talking to the judges once their competition time has ended. Competitors may continue to talk to the Master of Ceremonies.

2.4. OVERTIME PENALTIES

- A. If the competitor does not finish their presentation during the 15-minute competition period then they are allowed to proceed until the presentation is completed.
- B. One point (minus 1) will be deducted for each second of overtime after 15 minutes. The maximum penalty is 60 points and this will be deducted from the competitors combined score sheet total.
- C. Any competitor whose performance period **exceeds 16 minutes will be disqualified.**

2.5. COACHING

Coaching from the sidelines is not allowed during the competition. Doing so may result in disqualification. The WBC does encourage cheering from the sidelines by supporters, the audience and other team members. However, they are not allowed to assist or advise the competitor in any way.

2.6. THE ESPRESSO MACHINE

The WBC provided espresso machine has a fixed technical configuration and cannot be altered by the competitors. A technician will always be present in the competition area if something should occur with the WBC equipment.

2.6.1. Disqualification

Disqualification is automatic if a competitor changes or adjusts any of the following:

- A. The portafilter, filter basket and/or the gasket
- B. The temperature
- C. The pressure
- D. The steam wand tip/nozzle

The Head Judge and Technical judges will verify that nothing has been changed.

2.6.2. Espresso Machine Configuration

The WBC Technical Standard Committee is responsible for the configuration of the WBC espresso machines and grinders. One month prior to WBC all competitors will receive a detailed technical sheet describing the equipment specification to be used in the WBC.

2.7. PRESENTATION TABLE

All drinks should be served at the presentation table where the four sensory judges are located. The judge's presentation table can be set during the competitor's preparation time. It is not allowed to pre-pour water into the judge glasses during the competitor's preparation time. After each set of drinks has been served and evaluated by the judges, a WBC assistant will clear the drinks from the judge's presentation table when the Head Judge gives the signal.

2.8. TROUBLE SHOOTING

2.8.1. Technical

- A. If a competitor feels that there is a technical problem with the espresso machine, the grinder or the blender, the competitor should raise his/her hand and call for a technical timeout to the Head Judge, the clock will be stopped.
- B. If the Head Judge agrees there is a technical problem that can be easily resolved, then the Head Judge will decide upon the appropriate amount of time for the competitor to be credited. Once the WBC technician has fixed the problem then the competitor's time will resume.
- C. If the technical problem cannot be solved in a timely manner, the Head Judge will make the decision as to whether or not the competitor should wait to continue with his/her performance or stop the performance and start again at a reallocated time.
- D. If a competitor must stop their competition time, the competitor along with the Head Judge and WBC Event Manager will reschedule the competitor to compete again at a later time.
- E. If it is determined that the technical issue is due to competitor error, the Head Judge may determine that no additional time will be given to the competitor, and the competition will resume without time being credited.

2.8.2. Accessories

- A. If during their performance time a competitor has a problem such as breakage of glasses/cups or they have forgotten any accessories or ingredients, a timeout will not be allowed.
- B. The competitor must approach the Head Judge who is then responsible to either assign a person or ask the competitor to retrieve a replacement while the competitor's time is still running.

2.8.3. Obstruction

- A. If any individual, such as an assistant, judge, audience member, or photographers are an obvious hindrance for a particular competitor, then said competitor shall be given additional time. The Head Judge is responsible for overseeing this and will decide how much extra time should be credited.
- B. If the judges table has not been cleaned after the previous set of drinks, within a reasonable time, the competitor shall be credited for the delayed time. It is the Head Judges responsibility to oversee this.

3. WBC COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- A. The competition space will consist of a stage with three competition stations, numbered 1, 2 & 3.
- B. Each competitor will be assigned a station number and a start time.
- C. Competitors will be assigned a WBC assistant to help deliver their equipment to the competition station.
- D. Each competitor will be given 45 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments;
 1. 15-minutes Preparation Time - Not evaluated
 2. 15-minutes Competition/Performance Time - Evaluated
 3. 15-minutes Clean-Up Time - Not evaluated

In addition all competitors will be given one (1) hour practice prior to competition time.

The competition flow will follow the process outlined in the following chart:

Machine no 1	Machine no 2	Machine no 3
1st Barista (Machine no 1)		
15 min preparation		
15 min competition Judge calibration	2nd Barista (Machine no 2)	
15 min clean up	15 min preparation	3rd Barista (Machine no 3)
	15 min competition Judge calibration	15 min preparation
4th Barista (Machine no 1)	15 min clean up	15 min competition Judge calibration
15 min preparation	5th Barista (Machine no 2)	15 min clean up
15 min competition Judge calibration	15 min preparation	6th Barista (Machine no 3)
15 min clean up	15 min competition Judge calibration	15 min preparation
	15 min clean up	15 min competition Judge calibration
		15 min clean up

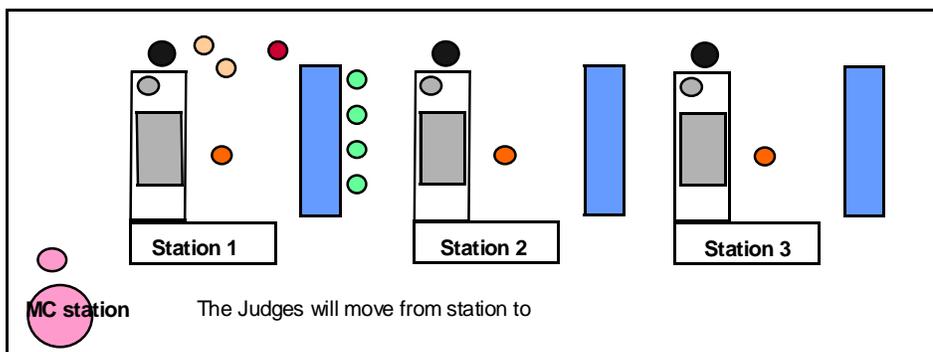
3.1. WBC PROVIDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Each competitor station will be equipped with the following:

- A. Mini-Refrigerator
- B. La Marzocco FB-80 Three-Group Espresso Machine
- C. Compak Grinder K10 Conic WBC
- D. Blender
- E. Knock Box
- F. Mini-Ice Machine
- G. Ice Scoop
- H. Fresh Whole Milk
- I. Rubbish/waste bin
- J. Waiters Cart (For use during preparation and clean-up time)

See diagram next page – the stage area.

3.1.1. Overview of the competition area



3.2. PREPARATION TIME

3.2.1. Be on time

Any competitor who is not onsite in sufficient time before the start of their 15 minutes of preparation time will be disqualified. (Minimum 30 minutes before preparation time starts).

3.2.2. Grinder

Competitors may only use two grinders during their performance, the WBC provided grinder and their own grinder(s), or two of their own grinders. No coffee beans may be placed in the hopper until the competitor's preparation time starts.

3.2.3. WBC Station Assistant

Each WBC station assistant will make sure each competitor's grinder, blender, or any other electrical equipment are placed to the right or the left of the espresso machine in accordance with the competitor's request.

Only the assigned station assistant will be allowed to assist the competitor on stage with the waiter's cart. The station assistant will not help the competitor unload the waiter's cart or set up the station. The waiter's cart will not be allowed on stage during the performance time and will be taken out by the station assistant.

3.2.4. Preheated cups

All cups must be empty, clean and dry at the start of competition time.

3.2.5. Preparation end-time

Competitors will not be allowed to exceed the fifteen minutes of preparation time. The timer will give the competitor a ten minute, five minute, three minute, one minute, and thirty second warning during their fifteen minutes of preparation time. At exactly fifteen minutes the official preparation timekeeper will call "time" and ask the competitor to step back away from the station.

3.3. PERFORMANCE TIME

Reference is made to **Chapter 2. THE WBC COMPETITION**. Once the fifteen minutes preparation time has elapsed and the judges are ready, the Master of Ceremonies will introduce the competitor who will be interviewed in English. Competitors may have their own interpreter present or choose not to be interviewed.

The competition time will only be stopped on the competitor's final signal by raising their arm and stopping the timer clock. This to make sure the WBC timekeepers and the Head Judge get the exact total time.

3.4. CLEAN-UP TIME

The competitors will clean their stations thoroughly after their performance time. The assigned WBC assistant will check the station after each clean up period and approve the stations cleanliness. Only after this approval the competitor can leave the station. This will not be evaluated. If it is not satisfactory then the competitor will be asked to clean the required areas.

4. WBC CERTIFIED JUDGES

The WBC Rules & Regulations Committee sets the standard to which all WBC Certified Judges are required to adhere. Competitors are advised to thoroughly review the score sheets and the Judges Guide/Code of Conduct to ensure that they are familiar with the criteria. All WBC documents may be downloaded from our website: www.worldbaristachampionship.com

4.1. ELIGIBILITY OF WBC JUDGES

4.1.1. WBC Judges

- A. Only experienced WBC approved and certified judges are allowed to judge in the World Barista Championship.
- B. The Judge and Certification Committee (JCC) is responsible for the certification of WBC judges.
- C. The JCC is responsible for selection of eligible judges in the forthcoming WBC.
- D. The selection of judges shall be announced by the JCC a minimum three months prior to the forthcoming WBC. The selected judges will be published at www.worldbaristachampionship.com

4.1.2. Eligible WBC Judges

- A. To be selected to the WBC finals, the WBC Licensed National Body must send a "Letter of Recommendation" to the JCC a minimum six months prior the forthcoming WBC.
- B. The following experience is required before a recommendation will be considered.
 - 1. A minimum two years judging experience in WBC sanctioned barista competitions.
 - 2. To have judged in a minimum of 2 WBC sanctioned national barista competitions before the forthcoming WBC.
 - 3. To have passed the national WBC sanctioned judges training program.

4.1.3. Conflict Of Interest

- A. If a judge is deemed as biased in any way towards a competitor or perceived by others to have a conflict of interest with one or several of the competitors then the WBC judge may be exempt from the judging.
- B. Full reference is made to the WBC Judges Code of Conduct/Conflict of interest, which can be downloaded from our website. www.worldbaristachampionship.com.

4.2. HEAD JUDGE

In the WBC there is always one appointed Head Judge who has the main oversight during the competition period. The Head Judge works closely with the Rules and Regulations Committee (RRC) and the Judges and Certification Committee (JCC). It is required that each committee has one representative present during the WBC competitions.

- A. The Head Judge is the main overseer of the competition.
- B. The Head Judge is responsible for making sure that the judges are professionally evaluating the competitors according to the WBC standards and training guidelines.
- C. The Head Judge ensures that the judges fill out their score sheets clearly and accurately.
- D. The Head Judge is responsible for timekeepers and WBC assistants in the competition area.
- E. The Head Judge makes certain that the barista has adequate working space.
- F. The Head Judge is responsible for making sure there are no obstructions during the competitor's performance time, including press photographers, camera crew, audience, volunteers and other judges.
- G. The Head Judge will evaluate both the competitor and the judges using the Head Judge's score sheet. The scores on this sheet do not count in the overall score total.
- H. The Head judge will appoint one of the sensory judges to share each competitor's beverages with the head judge for further evaluation.

- I. The Head Judge will only taste the drinks after the Sensory Judge has completed their own evaluation.
- J. The Head Judge has the final authorization concerning critical points in the judge evaluation period.

4.3. TECHNICAL JUDGE

In the WBC two Technical Judges are present for each competitor and are positioned near to the competitor's working area. The total sum of the two technical judges are added together and divided by two. This sum total is transferred to the four sensory scoring sheets.

4.4. SENSORY JUDGES

In addition to the two technical judges, four Sensory Judges will evaluate the competitors. The four sensory judges are to be positioned behind the presentation table. Each sensory judge will only evaluate and score the drink that is served to them.

4.5. JUDGING CRITERIA

The judging criteria is based on the WBC official scoring sheets, which can be downloaded from our website: www.worldbaristachampionship.com.

4.5.1. Competition Area

The competition area will be evaluated for cleanliness at the start and end of the performance/competition time by the two technical judges.

4.5.2. Taste Evaluation

Points will be awarded by the sensory judges for the taste of each individual drink based on all the criteria required on the sensory score sheet.

4.5.3. Beverage Presentation

Points will be awarded based upon the visual presentation of the drinks including cups, glasses and accessories, consistency of drinks, creativity and style of presentation.

4.5.4. Technical Skills

Points will be awarded based upon the competitor's technical knowledge and skill in the operating of the espresso machine and grinder.

4.5.5. Judges Total Impression

Points will be awarded based on the judges overall impression of the competitor taking into account their technical skills, taste of drinks, and personal and beverage presentation.

4.6. POST COMPETITION

4.6.1. WBC Official Scorekeeping

The appointed WBC official scorekeeper is responsible for keeping all score confidential until the official announcement.

4.6.2. Equal Scores

If there is a matching score between two or several competitors the following apply:

A review of all the involved competitors score sheets will determine the individual scores of sixes, fives, fours and so on. The competitor with most sixes, fives, fours etc will win over the other competitor(s).

4.6.3. Debriefing

- A. It is mandatory for all judges to be present and give each non-finalist competitor a debriefing after the competition finals are announced, if they so wish. This will be done the day before the finals.
- B. THE WBC JCC is responsible for scheduling the debriefing with the Event Manager.
- C. The six WBC finalists will not receive the debriefing until after the final.

5. PROTEST AND APPEALS

All complaints and appeals have to be in a written document addressed to the right committee, such as Rules and Regulation Committee, Judge and Certification Committee, Technical Standard Committee or the Event Manager, and should contain the following:

- A. Who the complaint is from, stating full name and nationality
- B. A clear and concise statement of the complaint
- C. Dates and time references
- D. The complainants view and required solution
- E. All individuals involved
- F. Complete contact detail/information

Any written protests/appeals, which do not as a minimum include the subjects above, will not be considered. All protest/appeals and/or exemptions must be forwarded to the one of the WBC committees or WBC Event Manager within 24 hours of the offending incident.

5.1. COMPETITION RELATED ISSUES

5.1.1. Protests

If there are protests during and/or post competition they must be put in writing (see above) and delivered to the WBC Event Manger on site and/or via email. Based upon the matter of the complaint the WBC Event Manager is obliged to summon the involved parties and make sure that all parties involved are heard.

A representative from relevant WBC committees pertaining to the complaint shall be present in the analysis. The Rules and Regulations Committee chairperson or a representative will make the final decision/ruling. The Event Manager will give a reply on behalf of the WBC to the complainant in writing within a reasonable period of time.

5.1.2. Appeals

If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision made at the time, then the complainant will be forwarded in writing to WBC Board of Directors. The WBC Board's decision is final.

5.2. JUDGE/JUDGING RELATED ISSUES

5.2.1. Protest

If there is a protest regarding the judge(s), or if a competitor objects to the results given by the judge(s), it must be in writing (see above) and be forwarded to the JCC representative and/or the Head Judge on site. The Rules and Regulation Chair or representative must always be present.

5.2.2. Appeals

If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision made by Judge and Certification Committee, the appeal will be forwarded to WBC Board of Directors. The WBC Board's decision is final.

5.3. DISHONEST BEHAVIOUR

If in the unlikely event that the Head Judge or any other WBC personnel discovers or suspects potential dishonest behaviour by a WBC judge during a competitors evaluation then the following will apply:

- A. The Head Judge shall request the return of all the competitors score sheets from the official score keeper surrounding the suspicious evaluation.

- B. The Head Judge will call a meeting with the WBC judge(s) concerned in addition to the JCC and the RRC representative and evaluate the situation.
- C. The JCC and RRC Chair or representative will rule upon the matter in closed session.
- D. If the matter of dishonesty is extensive the JCC and RRC has the power to rule that the WBC judge will be excluded from judging in any future WBC sanctioned competitions.

5.3.1. Protest/appeal

The WBC judge(s) in question can appeal to WBC Board of Directors in writing. The WBC Board's decision is final.