

Pro-Am Competition

First come, First Served: The GABF Pro-Am competition is limited to 96 entries. These will be first come, first served during the beer registration process. **Once filled, no additional Pro-Am entries can be accepted.**

The Brewers Association and the American Homebrewers Association are proud to present the 17th Annual GABF Pro-Am Competition of the Great American Beer Festival.

Please read all the Rules & Regulations before entering the GABF Pro-Am Competition.

2023 Rules & Regulations

Breweries that have entered at least **one** brand in the GABF competition/festival are eligible to enter a beer in the Pro-Am Competition. Breweries are not allowed to enter **ONLY** the Pro-Am Competition. The entry fee for the Pro-Am is \$160.

Beers entered in the GABF Pro-Am competition must be commercially available. Commercially available means the entered brand has been available for sale at retail by August 14, 2023. All GABF eligibility rules apply to Pro-Am entries.

Beer entered in the Pro-Am competition must be served at the festival and cannot be entered solely as a “judge only” entry. Pro-Am beer is served at a designated GABF Pro-Am booth in the festival hall, thus is not counted toward the maximum number of beers that can be served at the brewery’s booth. However, the brewery may choose to offer the Pro-Am beer as one of their five festival beers at their brewery booth as well. Each beer entered in the Pro-Am competition is served during **one** of the four tasting sessions. Breweries may request an additional 1/6-barrel MicroStar keg for their Pro-Am beer to be served at the Pro-Am booth.

Breweries may determine the homebrew recipes they scale up in one of three ways:

1. Select an award-winning homebrew from an American Homebrewers Association (AHA)/Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP)-sanctioned homebrew competition held on or after July 1 of the previous year*.
2. Select an entry from your own brewery-run and/or AHA/BJCP-sanctioned competition held on or after July 1 of the previous year*.
3. Partner with a local homebrew club to organize an AHA/BJCP-sanctioned competition and select an entry from that competition held on or after July 1 of the previous year*.

*Some exceptions to the entry timeframe may be made in the case of beers requiring extended aging.

The nature of the competition is entirely up to the brewery and must be timed to give the brewery adequate time to brew the beer to be ready for entry to the competition. The brewery may choose to work with an existing competition or create their own. Breweries may restrict the styles eligible for Pro-Am entry selection to styles they can reasonably brew. For example, breweries may choose not to accept recipes for fruit beers, sour beers, or beer requiring extended aging, etc.

Breweries brew the winning beer from the recipe submitted by the winning homebrewer. The winning homebrewer must be an AHA member at the time the brewery enters the GABF competition (June 2023) and must have a valid AHA membership at the time of the GABF (September 2023). All brewery entrants must be members of the Brewers Association. Individual AHA members may be associated with no more than one entry submitted into the GABF Pro-Am Competition judging at the GABF.

Limited modifications of the recipe are allowed to accommodate the scale of commercial brewing and ingredients available to the brewery.

The homebrewer brewing their recipe with the professional brewery **cannot** be, or have ever been, an employee of that brewery or on the brewing staff—which includes employees involved in the brewing process or brewing production, e.g. brewer, lab technician, cellar crew, quality control, etc.—at **any brewery**. Employees of the Brewers Association are ineligible.

See our [Events Calendar](#) for a calendar of upcoming AHA/BJCP-sanctioned competitions or go to the [BJCP website](#) to register a competition. Breweries may wish to partner with a local homebrew club or homebrew supply shop if they wish to organize their own competition. See HomebrewersAssociation.org for homebrew club and shops directories.

Contact Joe Damgaard, Event Manager, joe@brewersassociation.org for more information.

All entrants, both professional and amateur brewers, must sign a [Licensing Agreement](#) prior to the submission of entries to the GABF. The [Licensing Agreement](#) limits and protects the way the GABF trademark is used.

The \$160 charge for GABF Pro-Am Competition entry fee is the same as the fee for all other GABF entries.

No more than one entry per brewery is accepted in the GABF Pro-Am Competition.

No more than 96 total entries are accepted for this competition. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

GABF Pro-Am Judging & Awards

GABF Pro-Am entries compete in best-of-show-style judging that takes place over two rounds. The first round of judging happens before regular GABF judging, with advancing entries moving on. The GABF Style Guidelines and a combination of BJCP and GABF judge panels are used for the judging. Entering brewers must provide the appropriate GABF category name and number along with any requested supplemental information for the entry to be judged correctly. Entries that do not include this information will not be accepted.

Judges will determine the top three entries in the GABF Pro-Am Competition, which are awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze GABF Pro-Am Competition medals during the GABF awards ceremony. Medals are issued to both the winning brewery and the winning homebrewer.

The Pro-Am medals do not count towards Brewery of the Year awards, and therefore, are not counted for Brewery of the Year points.