

11th Annual Orpheus MeadFest Competition 2021

Rules and Procedures

Our online [Reggiebeer](#) registration websites will open on Monday, July 26, 2021, for early registration of your entries.

Entry Limitations:

The Homebrew division is limited to a total of 200 entries.

The Commercial division is limited to a total of 100 entries.

All sub-categories in both divisions are limited to 20 entries.

Both home and commercial brewers are limited to a maximum of 10 entries.

This competition is open to brewers age 21 or older.

Register your entries early! You will not be able to register entries once those limits are reached.

Early Registration

You may begin registering your entries on Monday, July 26, 2021. [ReggieBeer](#) allows you to change and refine your entries until the registration deadline on Saturday, September 4th.

Competition Entry Period: Monday, August 9th-Saturday, September 4th

Entry registration is done via [ReggieBeer](#). Registration and entry acceptance begins Monday, August 9th. All entries must be received by the end of business on Saturday, September 4th.

Note: Late entries will be accepted at the sole discretion of the competition registrar.

Competition Judging Period

September 12th-September 26th

Style Guidelines

Homebrew Division:

As an AHA/BJCP sanctioned mead-only competition, we follow their 2015 style guidelines, rules, standards, and procedures for the Homebrew division. To download the 2015 Mead Style guidelines, go to <https://bjcp.org/stylecenter.php>

Commercial Division:

We use the Mazer Cup 2018 Commercial Guidelines. To download the Mazer Cup 2018 Commercial Guidelines, go to: <https://mazercup.org/2018/12/11/commercial-style-info/>

Entry Fees:

For both divisions, the entry fee is \$15.00. An entry consists of three bottles of at least 10 ounces in order to ensure there is enough of your mead for the Best of Show round. Oversized and unusual bottles are allowed provided they meet the rules for labeling.

How do I enter?

[ReggieBeer](#) Entry registration sites will open on Monday, July 26th for early registration.

Homebrew division: Go to Orpheus 2021 Competition Homebrew Division
Commercial division: Go To: Orpheus 2021 Competition Commercial Division

Create your account, if needed, and follow the entry registration instructions. All entries must be registered and paid for online. We do not accept walk-in entries and payments.

You may edit or change your entries until the last day of the entry period, September 4th, at which time all entries must be paid for.

Ingredient Description:

Homebrewers: Refer to the BJCP 2015 Mead Style Guidelines: <https://bjcp.org/stylecenter.php>
Commercial brewers: Refer to the Mazer Cup 2018 Commercial Guidelines: <https://mazercup.org/2018/12/11/commercial-style-info/>

All entries must specify level of sweetness (dry, semi-sweet, sweet), carbonation (sparkling, petillant, or still), and strength (hydromel, standard, sack). **You must list all ingredients and the type of honey used.**

Do not use brand or location names when describing ingredients. For instance, if you used Brand X Tupelo honey and Colorado Palisade peaches, describe the ingredients as Tupelo honey and peaches.

Entries in categories 25C and 26A, B, and C require style and/or special ingredient information. A mead listed in a category not requiring special ingredients should not have any special ingredients listed.

Entries in 25C Other Fruit Melomel: Specify the varieties of fruit used.

Entries in 26A Metheglin: Specify the spices used.

Entries in 26B Braggot: Specify the base style of beer or types of malt used.

Entries in 26C Open Category Mead: Specify the special nature of the mead, whether it is a combination of existing styles, experimental mead, historical mead, or some other creation.

Special Instructions for the Judges (e.g. request that the judges swirl the bottle before serving): Include all those instructions in the Special Ingredients section of the registration form.

What kind of bottle is required?

Note: Entries in bottles not meeting these requirements will be disqualified.

BOTH DIVISIONS: All bottles **MUST** be labeled with the competition bottle labels generated by our Reggie Beer registration websites. Follow the instructions exactly. All bottles must have labels attached to them with a rubber band.

HOME BREW DIVISION: Entries must be in bottles that have a capacity of at least 10 ounces in volume. Bottles may be of any size and color, and must be free of ink, paint, or paper labeling other than competition entry labels. Obliterate any lettering or graphics on the cap with a

permanent black marker. Corked bottles, odd-shaped bottles, and bottles with raised lettering are acceptable.

COMMERCIAL DIVISION: You may submit your entries in your standard bottles, providing that bottle capacity is a minimum of 10 ounces in volume. Before attaching your ReggieBeer entry labels, cover or disguise your meadery labels and caps to help ensure the anonymity of your entries.

How many bottles must I submit?

Send 3 bottles for each competition sub-category entry to guarantee that enough bottles are submitted for each of the judges and the Best of Show round.

Safe Packing and Shipping Hints

Please pack and ship your entries so they arrive intact. Carefully pack your entries in a sturdy box. Line the inside of your package with a plastic trash bag. Partition and pack each bottle with adequate packaging material. Please refrain from using packing “peanuts.” If possible; use bubble wrap or newspaper instead. Do not over-pack! Your package should weigh less than 25 pounds.

Read “How to Pack Your Beer,” a downloadable PDF file from Zymurgy Spring 1991 (Vol. 14, No. 1) for excellent advice on how to save time, money, and avoid broken bottles. Also refer to “The Competitive Edge,” an article about entering competitions in Zymurgy Spring 1996 (Vol. 19, No. 1). Contact info@brewersassociation.org to obtain an electronic copy.

Drop Off and Ship-To Locations

Use the Drop-off and Ship-to options in ReggieBeer.

Entries may be dropped off or delivered during business hours from Monday, August 9th through Saturday, September 4th.

CHECK business hours first by calling your preferred location prior to shipping your entries!

DO NOT SHIP ENTRIES VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. IT IS ILLEGAL TO SHIP ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES VIA THE USPS.

Ship entries via a private shipping company (UPS, Fedex, etc.). It is not against any federal law to ship your entries via a privately-owned shipping company for analytical purposes. It is solely your responsibility to follow all applicable laws and regulations, Check with your shipping company about their procedures!

Allow at least one week for shipping time! Waiting until the last minute to ship increases the opportunity for error.

Orpheus cannot acknowledge receipt of your package. If you wish to confirm delivery of your package, arrange for a return receipt with your shipping company. Packages with postage due or C.O.D. charges will be returned to sender. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact entrants whose bottles have broken to arrange for replacement bottles.

The Judging, Results, and Awards

All judging will be performed between Sunday, September 12 and September 26 in private sessions.

Judges may not judge a category in which they have entered, and stewards may not steward a category in which they have entered.

Awards will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers scoring 30 or higher in each category. Entries must score 30 or better to compete in Best of Show, although scoring a 30 or better does not guarantee advancement. If there are less than three entries scoring 30 or better in a given category, judges will award fewer than three entries for that category.

Best of Show Award For both divisions, first-place entries in each of the sub-categories will compete in a Best-of-Show judging.

Competition results will be announced via ReggieBeer shortly after the conclusion of the competition.

Entrant eScoresheets will be available on their private ReggieBeer account shortly after the conclusion of the competition.

Awards will be mailed the week following the end of the competition.

All decisions by Orpheus MeadFest competition staff and judges are final.