

13th Annual Orpheus MeadFest Competition

2024 Rules and Procedures

Our Online [Reggiebeer.com](https://reggiebeer.com) Registration Websites Open on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

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.

Competition Calendar:

A. Registration

The registration period is from Wednesday, May 1, 2023 through Friday, June 21.

Homebrew division: Go to Orpheus 2024 Competition Homebrew Division

Commercial division: Go To: Orpheus 2024 Competition Commercial Division

B. Entry Acceptance Period: Monday, June 3-Sunday, June 21

All entries must be registered, received, and paid for by the end of business on Sunday, June 3rd. Note: Late entries will be accepted at the sole discretion of the competition registrar.

C. Competition Judging Period: Sunday, June 30-Sunday, July 21

D. MeadFest Awards Ceremony: Saturday, July 27, 2023

Style Guidelines and Ingredient Description:

We follow the [BJCP 2021 Style Guidelines](#) for both divisions. Should the BJCP update its style guidelines prior to May 1, 2024, we will use those newer guidelines.

Entry Definition and Fee:

For both divisions, the entry fee is \$15.00. *An entry consists of three bottles of at least 10 ounces, one bottle for each of two judges and the Best of Show round.* Oversized and unusual bottles are allowed provided they meet the rules for labeling. Because our judges are in separate locations for virtual judging, we cannot decant entries into judging portions. Submitting fewer than 3 bottles may mean being excluded from the BOS round.

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 special ingredient information.

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: Include them in the Special Ingredients section.

Bottle and Label Requirements *Entries not meeting these requirements will be disqualified.* **Both**

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

Homebrew 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 labeled bottles, providing that bottle capacity is a minimum of 10 ounces in volume.

Safe Packing and Shipping Hints Go [*Crafty Shipping*](#) for excellent advice!

Drop Off and Ship-To Locations Use the *Drop-off and Ship-to options in ReggieBeer*.

All entrants must include the words “Orpheus MeadFest” on all shipping labels.

All international and Commercial division entries are being accepted by Elite. You must select use as your ship-to /drop-off location.

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

Do not ship via the USPS. It is illegal to ship alcohol 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 domestic shipping time. International entries should be shipped prior to the entry acceptance date to allow 4-8 weeks shipping time.

Orpheus cannot acknowledge receipt of your package until all entries have been received and sorted on June 29th. 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.

All entries become the property of Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir.

Judging, Results, and Awards

All judging will be performed between June 25 and July 14. in private virtual sessions. Judges and Stewards may not judge nor steward a category in which they have entries. **All decisions by judges and the competition staff are final.**

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 and **Entrant eScoresheets** will be available on their private ReggieBeer account via ReggieBeer shortly after the conclusion of the awards ceremony on Saturday, July 22nd.

Awards will be mailed shortly after the awards ceremony.