

# 14th Annual Orpheus MeadFest Competition 2026 Rules and Procedures

Our Online [Reggiebeer.com](https://reggiebeer.com) Registration Websites open on Thursday, May 4, 2026.

When in doubt about any of the following rules and procedures, follow the instructions in ReggieBeer.

## Entry Limitations:

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

The Commercial division is limited to a total of 100 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 Thursday, May 4, 2026 through Friday, June 5, 2026.

Homebrew division: Go to [Reggiebeer.com](https://reggiebeer.com) Orpheus 2026 Competition Homebrew Division

Commercial division: Go To: [Reggiebeer.com](https://reggiebeer.com) Orpheus 2026 Competition Commercial Division

### B. Entry Acceptance Period: Monday, May 25-Friday, June 5

All entries must be registered, received, and paid for by the end of business on Friday, June 5th.

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

### C. Competition Judging Period: Sunday, June 21-Friday, July 10

### D. MeadFest Awards Ceremony: Saturday, July 25, 2026

## Style Guidelines and Ingredient Description:

We follow the [BJCP 2021 Style Guidelines](https://www.bjcp.org/2021-style-guidelines) for both divisions.

## Entry Definition and Fee:

Homebrew Division: the entry fee is \$15.00. Commercial Division: the entry fee is \$25.00.

*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.

Session (Short) Meads should be categorized as Hydromels.

**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 ReggieBeer. Attach those labels to your bottles with rubber bands. **Do not use tape.**

**Homebrew Division:** Entries must be in bottles that have a capacity of at least 10 ounces. 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, provided that the bottle capacity is a minimum of 10 ounces.

**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.*  
The words “*Orpheus MeadFest*” must appear on ALL on shipping labels and boxes..

**All international home and commercial entries and domestic commercial division entrants must select Elite as your ship-to /drop-off location.**

CHECK business hours first by calling your 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 20<sup>th</sup>.* 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 21 and July 10 in private virtual sessions. Judges and stewards may neither 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 be entered in a Best-of-Show judging.

**Competition results** will be announced and **Entrant eScoresheets** made available on their private ReggieBeer account shortly after the conclusion of the awards ceremony on Saturday, July 25th. **Awards** will be mailed shortly after the awards ceremony.