
2026 WORLD BARISTA CHAMPIONSHIP

Official Rules and Regulations



**WORLD
BARISTA
CHAMPIONSHIP™**



2026 World Barista Championship

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1.	Conditions of Participation	4
1.1	Organization	4
1.2	Rights	4
1.3	Conditions of Participation	4
1.4	Conflicts of Interest	6
1.5	Enforcement of Rules and Regulations.....	7
1.6	Health & Safety Clause.....	7
1.7	Application	7
2.	The Competition	8
2.1	Summary	8
3.	Beverage Definitions	9
3.1	Espresso.....	9
3.2	Milk Beverage	10
3.3	Signature Beverage	11
4.	Competition Procedure	12
4.1	Summary	12
4.2	Overview of the Competition Area	14
5.	Machinery, Accessories & Raw Materials	15
5.1	Espresso Machine	15
5.2	Grinder.....	16
5.3	Additional Equipment	16
5.4	Provided Equipment & Supplies	17
5.5	Recommended Equipment & Supplies.....	17
6.	Competitor Instructions Prior to Preparation Time.....	18
6.1	Competitors' Orientation Meeting.....	18
6.2	Preparation Practice Room.....	18
6.3	Practice Time	19
6.4	Competition Music	19
6.5	Be on Time.....	19



6.6	Table Setup.....	19
6.7	Supporters/Assistants Not Allowed on Stage	20
6.8	Interpreter	20
6.9	Wheel Supplies on Stage.....	20
7.	Preparation Time.....	20
7.1	Begin Preparation Time	20
7.2	Cart	21
7.3	Judges' Presentation Table	21
7.4	Practice Shots	21
7.5	Pre-Heated Cups	21
7.6	End of Preparation Time	21
8.	Competition Time	22
8.1	Microphone and Master of Ceremonies	22
8.2	Begin Competition Time.....	22
8.3	Competitor Introduction	22
8.4	Serve Required Beverages	23
8.5	Runners Clear the Served Drinks	23
8.6	Station Perimeters.....	23
8.7	End Competition Time.....	23
8.8	Communication After the Competition Time	24
8.9	Time Penalties	24
8.10	Coaching	24
9.	Technical Issues	24
9.1	Obstructions.....	25
9.2	Forgotten Accessories	25
10.	Clean-up Time.....	26
11.	Team Bar	26
11.1	Purpose	26
11.2	Procedure.....	26
12.	Post Competition	26
12.1	Scorekeeping.....	26
12.2	Debriefing.....	28
13.	Evaluation Criteria.....	28
13.1	What the Judges are Looking for in a Barista Champion.....	28
13.2	Evaluation Scale & Scoring	28

14.	Technical Evaluation Procedure	30
14.1	Technical Scoresheet – Part I	30
14.2	Technical Skills Espresso – Part II	30
14.3	Technical Skills Milk Beverage – Part III	31
14.4	Technical Skills Signature Beverage – Part IV	32
14.5	Technical – Part V	32
15.	Sensory Evaluation Procedure	33
15.1	Espresso Evaluation – Part I	33
15.2	Milk Beverage Evaluation – Part II	35
15.3	Signature Beverage Evaluation – Part III	36
15.4	Barista Evaluation – Part IV	37
15.5	Judges’ Total Impression – Part V	38
16.	Appeals at the World Barista Championship	38
16.1	Judging/Scoring Issues at the World Coffee Championships	38
16.2	Other Issues at the World Coffee Championships	39
16.3	Appeals at the World Coffee Championships	39
16.4	Appeals Reviewed at the World Coffee Championships	39
17.	Competition Body Events	39
17.1	Highlighting Rule Variations for Competition Bodies	39
17.2	Appeals at a Competition Body Event	42

1. Conditions of Participation

1.1 Organization

The World Barista Championship (WBC) is a program of World Coffee Events, LTD (WCE). WCE is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA).

1.2 Rights

All intellectual property related to the World Barista Championship, including these Official Rules and Regulations and the format of the competition, are the property of World Coffee Events, LTD. No part of this document may be used or reproduced without the expressed permission of World Coffee Events, LTD.

1.3 Conditions of Participation

1.3.1 Competition Body Qualifications

The World Barista Championship (WBC) is a competition open to qualified Competition Body Champions of a World Coffee Events (WCE) sanctioned competition event. Sanctioned events are produced by WCE Licensed Competition Bodies. Every competition year, one competitor from each WCE Licensed Competition Body may participate. To learn more about how to become a WCE Licensed Competition Body please see: <https://wcc.coffee/competition-bodies>.

In any given year, coordinators or individuals who are involved in the management of their Competition Body Competition cannot compete. A year is considered to begin from the time the Competition Body starts planning their event.

1.3.2 Competition Body Champions and Substitutions

- A. A Competition Body Champion is defined as the competitor who wins their Competition Body Championship. This competitor has won the right to compete in that year's World Championship, or to defer candidacy to the following year. A competitor may defer candidacy to the following year, only if they have an eligible reason for doing so. See Deferred Candidacy (DC) Policy found here: <https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations#deferred-candidacy>.
- B. If a Competition Body Champion successfully applies for Deferred Candidacy, they retain their title as Competition Body Champion and may compete in the World Championships the following year. Once the Competition Body Champion has deferred their candidacy, the licensed Competition Body may designate an alternate competitor from its competition in descending order of succession, beginning with its second-place finisher. In this case, the competitor who goes to the World Championships will hold the title of Competition Body Competitor. Competition Body Competitors are not eligible for Deferred Candidacy, and do not hold the title of Competition Body Champion. However, all Competition Body Competitors will



be eligible to represent their coffee community by participating in the World Coffee Championships, including being eligible to win the title of World Coffee Champion.

- C. If a Competition Body Champion is not eligible for deferral, and elects not to go to the World Championships, the Competition Body may send a substitute competitor.
- D. With the exception of Deferred Candidacy applicants, all Competition Body Champions who do not compete in the worlds, for any reason, are required to give WCC staff notice themselves, via info@wcc.coffee to ensure clarity. Deferred Candidacy applicants are welcome to notify the WCC team of their intent to defer, without sharing any relevant details, as it can help ensure a substitute Competition Body Competitor with enough time to participate, but it is not required. Requests for any substitutions (Competition Body Representative Competitor) must be also received in writing from the Competition Body at info@wcc.coffee and approved by its Managing Director prior to competition.

1.3.3 Age requirement

Competitors must be at least 18 years of age at the time of competing in any World Coffee Events (WCE) sanctioned event.

1.3.4 Nationality

- A. Competitors must hold a valid passport from the place they represent or documentation substantiating 24 months of residency, employment or scholastic enrolment, some portion of which must have been within 12 months preceding the qualifying Competition Body competition.
- B. Competitors may only participate for one sanctioned Competition Body per WCE Competition year. A competition year is relative to the World Championships for which an event is qualifying a competitor to compete (e.g., if the competitor is competing in any Competition Body event that would qualify them for a 2020 World Championship, they must compete for that Competition Body exclusively in any event that is a qualifier for any 2020 World Coffee Championship).

1.3.5 Multiple Passports

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

1.3.6 Expenses

Licensed Competition Bodies are required to pay their Competition Body Champion's reasonable travel and accommodations expenses to, from, and for the duration of the WBC. All other expenses not explicitly listed above are the sole responsibility of the competitor. WCE shall not be liable for any competitor expenses under any circumstance.



1.4 Conflicts of Interest

1.4.1 Judging

- A. Competitors may not judge in any sanctioned WBC competition (world, Competition Body, regional) in any country, including their own, prior to the conclusion of that year's WBC Event. Judges may not compete in any sanctioned WBC competition (world, Competition Body or regional) in any country, including their own, prior to the conclusion of that year's WBC Event.
- B. WBC judges must not coach and judge at a WBC event. If a registered judge has coached or provided feedback to any competitor in any capacity (either as the primary coach, supporting coach, or consultant) they must declare that conflict of interest prior to the event and during calibration. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may result in the disqualification of the competitor. Once the competition event has begun or judges have started their calibration (whichever is earlier), no communication or consultation in any form can take place between judges and competitors for the duration of the competition. Failure to comply during the event will result in the disqualification of the competitor and the removal of the judge from judging the competition.
- C. Competitors may not select or endorse judges within their Competition Body Competition.

1.4.2 Calibration Baristas

- A. Competitors who participate as a calibration barista in a judge calibration for this competition are not eligible to compete in a sanctioned event until the completion of the competition year. This applies to both Competition Body WCE Sanctioned events as well as the World Competition.
- B. A competitor is allowed to be a calibration barista if they are not competing in that same competition year, for that championship. Additionally, a competitor is allowed to be a calibration barista at the World Championships in the same competition year if they have failed to qualify for the World Championships at their sanctioned Competition Body championships.
- C. A competition year is relative to the World Championships for which a Competition Body event is qualifying a competitor to compete.

Correct example: A competitor acts as a calibration barista for the 2021 World Championships. They are allowed to compete in their Competition Body events, that would qualify them to compete in the 2022 World Championships.

Incorrect example: A competitor acts as a calibration barista for any 2021 sanctioned Competition Body championship event (even in a country that is not their own), and then competes in the same competition at the 2021 World Championships.

1.4.3 Other Conflicts of Interest

Any potential conflicts of interest are to be declared at the soonest opportunity, certainly prior to the commencement of any competition by competitor, judge and/or event organizer.

Failure to declare a potential conflict in advance of a sanctioned event could result in disqualification from events for an individual, or WCE removing endorsement for an event and its results that do not follow these guidelines. Questions regarding conflicts of interest, or clarification of the above policy should be directed to info@wcc.coffee.

1.5 Enforcement of Rules and Regulations

The WBC will employ these Rules & Regulations throughout the competition. If a competitor violates one or more of these Rules & Regulations, they may be automatically disqualified from the competition, except when the Rules designate a specific enforcement or consequence. If a judge or competition organizer causes the violation of one or more of these Rules, a competitor may submit an appeal, according to the process detailed in the "Appeals at the World Barista Championship" or "Appeals at a Competition Body Event" sections.

1.6 Health & Safety Clause

All Rules and Regulations are subject to change based on local and venue health and safety requirements or guidelines. World Coffee Events will share any Rules and Regulations changes via email ahead of the competition. These changes may include, but are not limited to changes to table sizes or layouts; material of provided vessels or cups; limits on coaches or helpers in the competitor preparation and practice rooms; mask or glove mandates; schedule changes for sanitization; etc.

1.7 Application

1.7.1 Competitor Registration Form

Competitors must complete the WBC Competitor Registration Form which will be sent to Competition Body Champions directly via email no less than 6 weeks prior to the WCC Event. This form includes a space to upload a scanned copy of the required valid passport or other accepted credentials (as described in the "Nationality" section). Approved Competition Body Champions will receive confirmation by email in approximately 2 weeks after receipt of all required registration documentation. [Any queries about competitor registration can be submitted to info@wcc.coffee.](mailto:info@wcc.coffee)

1.7.2 Late Competition Body Championship Registration

Competition Body Champions from competitions conducted less than 6 weeks prior to the WBC Event must submit all registration materials no more than 5 days after their Competition Body event. Failure to meet these criteria may result in denial of participation.



1.7.3 Competitor Questions

All competitors are personally responsible for reading and understanding current WBC Rules & Regulations and scoresheets, without exception. All WBC documents are available at <https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations>. Competitors are encouraged to ask questions prior to arriving at the WBC. If any competitor is unclear as to the intent of any of the rules and regulations it is their responsibility to clarify that position with the Rules and Regulations Committee prior to the WBC by contacting compinfo@wcc.coffee. Competitors will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the official Competitors Meeting held prior to the start of the competition.

1.7.4 Terms & Conditions

Competitors and the World Barista Champion are visible spokespeople of the World Barista Championship event and role models of the specialty coffee industry, and as such must:

- A. Permit World Coffee Events Ltd., its stakeholders, agents, and representatives to use the competitor's name, image, or likeness in any format without charge for any business purpose, including but not limited to marketing promotion.
- B. Read and abide by the Competitor Code of Conduct document found on the [WCC website](#).
- C. Read and abide by the Champion Code of Conduct document found on the [WCC website](#).

2. The Competition

2.1 Summary

- A. The WBC has 3 types of evaluation judges: sensory, technical, and head.
 - i. Round One of the World Barista Championship will be run with 4 sensory judges, 1 technical judge, and 1 head judge. Non-scoring shadow judges may be present on stage. Round One also includes the Team Bar, which is scored separately and for the purposes of advancing a Wild Card winner to the Semi-Finals.
 - ii. The Semi-Final and Final Rounds of the World Barista Championship will be run with 4 sensory judges and 1 head judge. Non-scoring shadow judges may be present on stage. In the absence of a technical judge, the head judge will evaluate the Station Management and cleanliness at the end of the performance/competition time.
- B. Competitors will serve 1 beverage from all 3 categories of drinks (espresso, milk beverage, signature beverage) to each of the 4 sensory judges, for a total of 12 drinks, during a period of 15 minutes.
- C. The competitor decides the order in which the drink categories are served; however, any category of drinks must be completed (e.g., all 4 single espressos are served) before a competitor may serve another category of drinks, otherwise they will be disqualified.

Preparation and service of signature beverage elements are allowed at any time during the competition time.

- D. Within each category (espresso, milk beverage, and signature beverage), drinks may be served in any combination to judges (e.g., 1 at a time, 2 at a time, or all 4 simultaneously). Sensory judges will begin evaluating their drink as soon as it is served, unless otherwise instructed by the competitor.
- E. All 4 drinks within each category must be prepared using the same coffee; however, the coffee used may change between categories. The 4 drinks of each category must contain the same ingredients and follow the same recipe as each other, which includes temperature on the group head. Deliberately preparing and serving varied drinks within a category will result in a score of 0 in Taste Experience for those drinks that deviate in recipe from the beverage that is served first.
- F. Competitors may produce as many drinks as they choose during the competition; however, only drinks served to the sensory judges will be evaluated.
- G. Food may be served but will not be consumed during any course.
- H. Head judges cannot be served anything consumable, except for water. Serving water to the head judge is not mandatory and it is at the discretion of the competitor. Nothing consumable (e.g., beverages, etc.) will be evaluated by the head judge.
- I. Team Bar service is required for all competitors. Any competitor who does not show up for their Team Bar service, is more than 5 minutes late for the shift start, or who does not complete their shift will not be eligible for the Wild Card slot. Further, competitors who do not attend and complete their shift will incur a +1 on their ranking, for the purposes of calculating the winning team.

3. Beverage Definitions

3.1 Espresso

- A. Espresso is a beverage (around 1 fl. oz. / 30 ml) made from ground coffee, poured from 1 side of a double portafilter in 1 continuous extraction.
- B. Coffee is the accumulation of roasted product of the seed of the fruit of a plant of the genus *Coffea*.
- C. For the purposes of this competition, no additives of any kind may be added to coffee after it reaches the "green coffee" stage, i.e., seeds of the *Coffea* genus, dried as a part of the post-harvest process, and free from all pericarp layers. This includes exposure to aromatic substances, flavorings, perfumes, liquids, powders, etc.
- D. Whole bean coffee may be a blend, single-region, single-country, single-farm, etc.



- E. All judges must be served a full espresso. If the shot does not comply with the espresso definition, then taste and/or tactile scores will reflect the resulting sensory experience. Espresso may be prepared with various amounts of coffee.
- F. Espresso will be brewed on the sponsored machine with brewing temperature set between 90.5-96 degrees Celsius (195-205 degrees Fahrenheit). Individual group heads may be set to different temperatures within this range. However, each beverage course should be served at a consistent temperature. Competition Bodies are required to use only one temperature across group heads.
- G. The espresso machine brewing pressure will be set between 8.5 and 9.5 bars.
- H. Extraction times between 2 pairs of espresso extractions must be within a 3.0 second variance, otherwise a "no" will be given for "Extraction time."
- I. Crema should be present when espresso is served, with no break in coverage.
- J. Espresso must be served in a vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely, judges unable to execute espresso evaluation protocol. Espresso must be served to the judges with a spoon (unless the competitor wants to override the espresso evaluation protocol), napkin, and unflavored water. The competitor will receive a reduced score in "Attention to detail" if the cup is not functional or not all appropriate items are served.
- K. Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the espresso will receive 0 points on all scores available on the technical and sensory scoresheets in the espresso category.

3.2 Milk Beverage

- A. A milk beverage is a combination of 1 single shot of espresso (per the "Espresso" section) and milk steamed with the WBC-provided espresso machine, which should produce a harmonious balance of rich, sweet milk and espresso.
- B. Each of the 4 milk beverages must contain a minimum of 1 espresso shot. If the shot does not comply with the espresso definition, then taste scores will reflect the resulting sensory experience. Espresso may be prepared with various amounts of coffee.
- C. All commercially available unflavored milks can be used. Plain (sweetened or unsweetened) plant-based milks and animal milks can be used. No human milk will be accepted, or the competitor will receive 0 points on all scores available on the technical and sensory scoresheets in the milk beverage category.
- D. Combining and blending commercially available milks is allowed, provided all milks are commercially available and prepared as directed, if required (e.g., commercially available milk

powders may be used, if prepared as directed on the package). Outside of combining milks, no additions may be made to milk, regardless of the type of milk chosen. Competitors can remove elements from commercially available milks (e.g., through freeze-distillation) provided that no ingredients or additives are used in the process of distillation.

- E. Competitors must bring the original packaging of all commercially available milks used in their milk beverage for inspection by judges to verify ingredients. If the competitor does not provide original packaging when asked, the milk beverage will receive 0 points in all categories available on the sensory scoresheets in the milk beverage category.
- F. Milk beverages may be served with latte art or with a central circle of white milk. Latte art expression may take any pattern the competitor chooses.
- G. Milk beverages must be served in a vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely. If there is a functional detriment to a judges' ability to score, the "Attention to Details" score will be impacted.
- H. No additional ingredients or toppings, including but not limited to sugar, spices, or powdered flavorings will be allowed. This also applies to ingredients that are already present in milks, as they are available. No additions may be made. If added, the competitor will receive 0 points in the "Taste Experience" category.
- I. Milk Beverages must be served to the judges with a napkin and unflavored water, otherwise the competitor will receive a reduced score in "Attention to detail."
- J. Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the milk beverage will receive 0 points on all scores available on the technical and sensory scoresheets in the milk beverage category.

3.3 Signature Beverage

- A. A signature beverage demonstrates a competitor's creativity and skill to create an appealing and individual espresso-based beverage.
- B. The signature beverage should be a liquid beverage; the judges must be able to drink it.
- C. Competitors must prepare a minimum of 4 espresso shots (per the definition of espresso in the "Espresso" section), and each shot must be incorporated into its corresponding signature beverage during preparation. If fewer than 4 espresso shots are prepared and/or used, the affected beverage(s) will receive a score of 0 points for "Taste Experience" on the sensory scoresheets in the signature beverage category for that corresponding beverage.

- D. Espresso used in the signature beverage must be prepared during the competitor's performance time, otherwise the signature beverage will receive a score of 0 for "Taste Experience" on the sensory scoresheets in the signature beverage category.
- E. The flavor of the espresso must be present in the signature beverage, producing a balanced drink with the other ingredients.
- F. The signature beverage may be served at any consumable temperature.
- G. Any ingredients may be used in the signature beverage preparation except alcohol, alcohol extracts or by-products, or controlled or illegal substances. If these substances are found in the beverage, competitors will receive 0 points in all categories available on the sensory scoresheets in the signature beverage category.
- H. All ingredients must be disclosed upon request. Competitors must bring the original packaging of all ingredients used in their signature beverage for inspection by judges to verify ingredients. If the competitor does not provide original packaging when asked, the signature beverage will receive 0 points in all categories available on the sensory scoresheets in the signature beverage category.
- I. Signature beverage ingredients should be prepared and assembled on-site during the competition time. The preparation of a signature beverage is captured in the "Well explained, introduced, and prepared" category on the sensory scoresheet. Preparation in advance of the competition time is necessary for certain ingredients (e.g., a 24-hour infusion) and is accepted.
- J. Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the signature beverage will receive 0 points in all categories available on the technical and sensory scoresheets in the signature beverage category.

4. Competition Procedure

4.1 Summary

- A. The competition space will consist of a stage with at least 3 competition stations, numbered sequentially (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.).
- B. Each competitor will be assigned a start time and station number.
- C. Each competitor will be given 44 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments:
 - i. 7 min Table Set Time
 - ii. 15 minutes Preparation Time
 - iii. 15 minutes Competition/Performance Time
 - iv. 7 minutes Clean-Up Time.

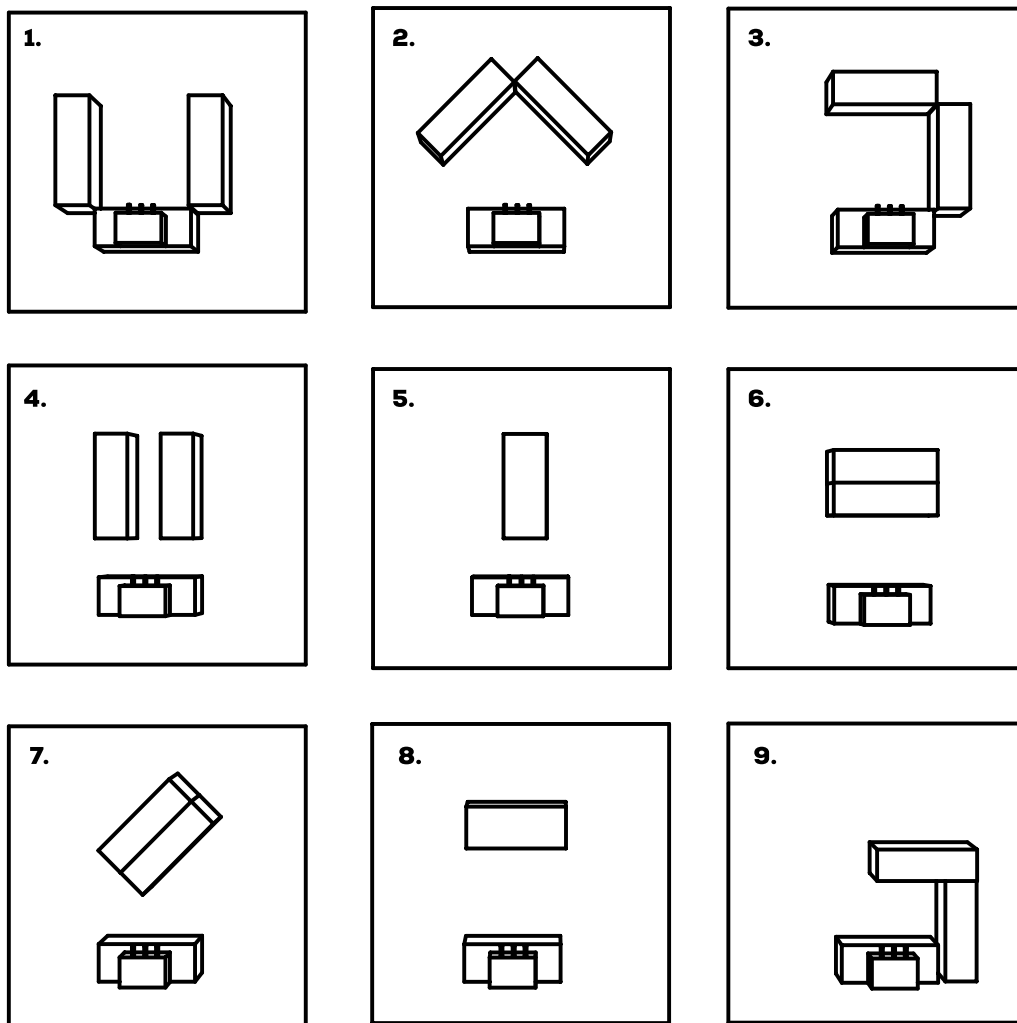
- D. The competitor will be in the competition square for Table Set Time, Preparation Time, Performance Time, and Clean-Up Time.
- E. A full schedule of competition flow will be made available for competitors 2 weeks prior to the event.
- F. The competition will consist of 3 competition rounds: Round One (all competitors), Semi-Final (16 competitors) and Final round (6 competitors).
- G. The WBC may, at its discretion, schedule more than 1 competition round in a single day (e.g., Semi-Final and Final may be held on the same day). The WBC may, at its discretion, schedule overlapping performances in Round One.
- H. At the end of Round One, the competitors with the 15 highest scores will advance to the Semi-Final round. The highest scoring member of the winning team who is not already advancing to the Semi-Final round will advance as the Wild Card competitor in the Semi-Final round (see Scoring, below). At the end of the Semi-Final round, the competitors with the 6 highest scores will advance to the Final. The competitor's scores from each round will not carry over to the next round. Competitors will not receive their scoresheets for review or receive their scores until they have finished advancing in the competition.
- I. At the conclusion of Round One, there will be a ceremony where the following will be announced: the Top 15 semi-finalists, the winning team, and the Wild Card semi-finalist. After Finals there will be an awards ceremony where finalists will be awarded sixth through first place.
- J. All ingredients and equipment are subject to evaluation by a backstage judge at any round. Carts may be examined prior to semi-finals and finals by a Judge, before rolling onto stage. The Judge may require verification of any and all ingredients or equipment on the cart. This may include sampling. Items found in violation of rules will not be allowed onstage.
- K. Competitor apparel during their performance and official photos cannot have logos, unless approved in advance of the event by the WCC team. Apparel with unapproved logos will need to be replaced or covered before filming/photography commences and at any time on stage, under penalty of disqualification. No additional time will be granted on the competition schedule for covering logos or replacing apparel, so competitors are expected to come prepared to the stage. Apparel (or equipment) may not have flags. Competitors are welcome to take photos onstage with flags after the official event photography is captured. No press interviews can be given within the competition area with unapproved logos on competitor's apparel or equipment.

4.2 Overview of the Competition Area

4.2.1 Station Placement

- A. Competitors will be able to choose from 9 station layouts using WBC-supplied furniture. The machine table will be set at a fixed height and location in all layouts. The additional provided tables will be adjusted to any of the layout configurations detailed below, as requested by the competitor. Competitors will also choose if the judges will sit or stand. The competitor will be required to fill out a form ahead of the competition, indicating their chosen station layout and judge placement. Judges may be served at any table other than the machine table. Any asymmetrical layout can be mirrored in orientation, if requested. Competitors may use a different layout for each round of competition.
- B. The WCC team will supply a full list with measurements of the furniture available for competitor use as soon as possible. The furniture will include an approximately 2.5L x 0.9W x 0.9H (m) espresso machine table, and 2 presentation tables approximately 2.4L x 0.75W x 1.0H (m) for preparation and/or service. Please note: all table dimensions are approximate and might vary slightly onsite.
- C. The competitor will be able to create one of the station layout options presented below within a 7m x 7m no-media square. The competitors must be present during the Table Set time. Once their station has been set to the requested general configuration, as depicted in the rules, competitors may request additional adjustments to the table set during the Table Set Time, provided it aligns with the initial layout and does not pose a health and safety risk in terms of stage workflow, water, and electric supply to the equipment on stage.
- D. All presentation tables must be at least 0.3m (12 inches) from the edge of the square and the espresso machine table cannot be moved.
- E. Grinders may go on either side of the espresso machine.

Station Layout Options:



5. Machinery, Accessories & Raw Materials

5.1 Espresso Machine

Competitors may only use the espresso machine supplied for the WBC by the official WBC espresso machine sponsor. No other espresso machines may be used, or present, on stage.

The WBC-provided espresso machine has a fixed technical configuration for the pump pressure (between 8.5 and 9.5 bars) and cannot be altered by the competitors. The machine's brewing temperature can be set at any temperature between 90.5-96 degrees Celsius (195-205 degrees Fahrenheit). Individual group head temperatures may be selected. A competitor's temperature request must be given during the Competitor's Orientation Meeting and will be set and verified by a technician from the sponsored espresso machine sponsor. An updated temperature setting request may be made by the competitor to the stage management staff after concluding their practice time. If no temperature is requested, the machine will be set at a midpoint between 90.5-96 degrees Celsius (195-205 degrees Fahrenheit).

5.1.1 No Liquids or Ingredients on Machine

No liquids or ingredients of any kind may be placed or poured on top of the espresso machine (e.g., no water in cups, no pouring or mixing liquids or ingredients, no warming ingredients). If a competitor places or pours liquid or ingredients on top of the machine, they will receive 0 points for the Station Management category.

5.1.2 Disqualification

Competitors may not change, adjust, or replace any element, setting, or component of the espresso machine or provided sponsor grinder(s) except for requesting the change of temperature setting as allowed by the rules. Any changes, or adjustments made may be grounds for disqualification (e.g., portafilters, filter baskets, pressure, steam wand tips, burrs, etc.). Any damage to the competition equipment due to misuse or abuse is grounds for disqualification.

5.2 Grinder

WBC Competitors must use the grinder sponsored by the official WBC grinder sponsor to prepare the espresso for each course in their competition routine. Provided grinders are only to be used on-site. The grinders have a fixed technical configuration including the hopper and cannot be opened or subjected to any functional modifications by the competitors. Competitors may adjust the grind particle size and dose from the external controls. The provided grinders will be calibrated to the same specifications for each competitor. The use of a competitor's own grinder is allowed, as long as the grinder model is identical to the official grinder model. Not following these rules is grounds for disqualification.

Competitors may not use more than 2 grinders total for espresso preparation during their performance, otherwise the competitor will receive 0 points in Station Management.

5.3 Additional Equipment

5.3.1 Electrical Equipment

In addition to the grinder(s) competitors may use up to 2 additional pieces of electrical equipment during their performance. Competitors must notify the WBC event organizer prior to arriving at the WBC of any electrical equipment they are bringing (e.g., hot plate, hand mixer, etc.), otherwise the competitor is at risk of their equipment not being allowed in their performance. Competitors are responsible for ensuring their electrical equipment can operate in the country where the WBC is held and for any adapters or converters necessary for operation of the equipment. WBC will not provide electrical adapters, converters, or extension cords.

5.3.2 Other Powered Equipment

Competitors may bring as many battery-powered items as they would like, except items that are provided as sponsored equipment by the WBC. However, competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment operates properly.

5.4 Provided Equipment & Supplies

Each competitor station will be equipped with the following: Espresso Machine, Grinders, 1 Knock Box, Milk (details available in advance of the competition), Trash Can, 1 Waiter's Cart (for use during preparation and clean-up time), water for sensory judges, and Tables as outlined in the "Overview of the Competition Area" section.

5.5 Recommended Equipment & Supplies

Competitors are required to bring all additional necessary supplies for their presentation; otherwise, the competitor is at risk of not having enough equipment to complete their presentation. Competitors should make allowances for breakage during travel and/or during the competition. Competitors are responsible for and in charge of their own equipment and accessories while at the competition. WCC staff, volunteers, and event staff are not responsible for the safety of items left in the competitors' preparation room or competition area.

Competitors should notify the WCC team of all additional equipment to ensure it is allowed. If a competitor would like to check if their equipment is allowed in advance of the competition, they may email compinfo@wcc.coffee. The competitor is obligated to provide all relevant information, which includes the make/model and a picture of the equipment. However, determinations on equipment allowance may be revised if additional relevant information is discovered onsite that was not previously disclosed or differs from provided details.

The list of supplies the competitor may bring includes the following:

- Coffee (for practice and the competition)
- Additional electrical equipment (maximum two items)
- Additional battery-operated equipment (as long as not in violation of any other stated restrictions)
- Tamper
- Shot glasses
- Steaming pitchers
- Milk (option to use WBC-provided milks)
- Cups and saucers as needed
- Spoons
- Any specific utensils required

- All equipment/accessories required for the Signature Beverage
- Napkins
- Water glasses (for 4 sensory judges)
- Water container (for serving the sponsored water to the sensory judges)
- Bar towels/clean cloths (for practice and the competition)
- Cleaning supplies (counter brush, grinder brush, etc.)
- Tray(s) (for serving drinks to the judges)
- All accessories for judges' presentation table
- Waiter's cart (option to use WBC-provided cart)

6. Competitor Instructions Prior to Preparation Time

6.1 Competitors' Orientation Meeting

Prior to the start of the WBC Event, a Competitor Orientation Meeting will take place, either online or in person. This meeting is mandatory for all competitors. During this meeting, the WBC stage manager and presiding head judges will make announcements, explain the competition flow, review the competition schedule, share images of the stage and backstage areas. This will be an opportunity for competitors to ask questions and/or voice concerns to the WBC Stage Manager and/or presiding head judges. After the meeting, the competitor will receive a form indicating their chosen station layout, judge placement, equipment placement, and their temperature request. This form must be returned to WCC staff. If a competitor has not made advance plans with the WCC staff and does not attend the online orientation meeting, they are subject to disqualification by the presiding head judges.

6.2 Preparation Practice Room

There will be a staging area designated as the competitors' preparation/practice room. The table layout cannot be altered in the preparation/practice room. This area will be reserved for the competitors, coaches, volunteers, and any WBC officials. Judges, press/media, competitor's family members, and supporters may not be present in this area without consent from the WCC event organizers. WCC preparation/practice room access will be restricted to the competitor, 1 coach, and 1 helper/interpreter, unless otherwise communicated by the stage manager. Competitors that violate backstage rules after being warned once by a stage manager or staff may be disqualified. Competitors will be able to store their equipment, accessories, ingredients, etc. in this room at their own risk. Refrigerators and freezers will be provided for any ingredients that need to stay cold or frozen. This room will also include a dishwashing station for competitors to use to wash glass and barware. Competitors are responsible for keeping track of and cleaning their own dishes and glassware. Runners and event staff are not responsible for breakage or loss of dishes or competitor items. There will be no power provided to competitors in the backstage

area. Competitors cannot plug equipment into any sockets found in the backstage area. Any equipment found to be plugged in outside of the competitors practice, preparation, and stage time will be removed.

6.3 Practice Time

The preparation/practice room will have espresso machines and grinders identical to the competition equipment on stage. Each competitor will be scheduled the same amount of practice time. At the WBC, competitors may have 1 hour of scheduled practice time. Practice times will be scheduled based on competition time (i.e., the first scheduled competitors will have the earliest scheduled practice times). Competitors will be emailed a practice schedule prior to the WBC Event. The WBC does not guarantee access to practice space outside of assigned practice time. If unforeseen events prevent the competitor from attending their scheduled practice time it is the competitor's responsibility to contact the event manager or stage manager as soon as possible.

6.4 Competition Music

Competitors may bring their own music for the Semi-Final and Final rounds of competition. The delivery method(s) will be communicated to competitors ahead of the competition. Music may not contain profanity, otherwise the competitor's score on "Presentation" may be penalized on all sensory scoresheets. It is the competitor's responsibility to give the WBC Stage Manager or Audio-Visual staff their music prior to the start of the competition. It is also the competitor's responsibility to retrieve the music from the WBC Stage Manager or Audio-Visual staff after the competition. Media that are not retrieved will be discarded after the competition.

Online performances will be streamed with rights-free music.

6.5 Be on Time

Competitors should be in the preparation/practice room a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their scheduled 7 minutes of Table Set Time. Any competitor who is not standing-by and ready to begin immediately at the start of their 7 minutes of Table Set Time may be disqualified.

6.6 Table Setup

A head runner will be responsible for ensuring each competitor's station is set as the competitor has requested prior to their preparation time (i.e., placement of the grinder(s), electrical equipment, and table layout). The competitor must be present for their Table Set Time. After the head runner has set up the station, the competitor is responsible to re-adjust it, if needed, within the Preparation Time. For details on the 7-minute Table Set Time, see the "Summary" section.

6.6.1 Grinder and Additional Electrical Equipment

If a competitor has brought additional electrical equipment or if a competitor plans to use the provided grinders, the competitor needs to inform the WBC Stage Manager prior to the start of competition. The



head runner will contact the competitor approximately 60 minutes prior to the start of their Table Set Time. If the competitor would like to help the head runner take their additional electrical equipment to the station, this will be allowed; however, once the item(s) is in place and plugged in, the competitor will not be allowed to touch the item(s) and must leave the stage immediately. Please note: no coffee beans may be placed in the hopper whether attached to the grinder or being brought out separately, until the competitor's preparation time has begun.

6.7 Supporters/Assistants Not Allowed on Stage

Only the competitor, their designated interpreter, and WCC-authorized personnel are allowed on-stage during the allotted Table Set, Preparation, Performance and Clean-up times. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

6.8 Interpreter

Competitors may bring their own interpreter at their sole expense. When speaking to the competitor the interpreter is only allowed to translate what the emcee, head judge, stage manager, or head runner has said. When a competitor speaks, the interpreter is only allowed to translate exactly what the competitor has said. No additional competition time will be allotted with the use of an interpreter. The competitor is judged based on the translation of the competitor, not based on the competitor's spoken words. It is the competitor and coach's responsibility to read the interpreters best practice document that is provided by WBC event organizer or available from [the WCC website](#).

6.9 Wheel Supplies on Stage

A waiter's cart will be provided for the competitors to transport their items to and from the competition area. Prior to the competitor's preparation time, they will load the cart with the supplies and glassware needed for competition. Each competitor will be assigned a station runner who will assist the competitor as they wheel the waiter's cart from the preparation area to their assigned station. Once onstage, the assigned station runner will ask the competitor if the station is set to their specifications; if the competitor says "yes" the station runner will leave the stage; if the competitor says "no" the competitor will say what additional changes need to be made. The station runner and the competitor are allowed to make these adjustments together per the competitor's request. Once the station set up meets the competitor's approval the station runner will introduce the competitor to the preparation timer and leave the stage.

7. Preparation Time

7.1 Begin Preparation Time

Each competitor will have 15 minutes of preparation time. Competition and preparation timekeepers are optional at the discretion of the Stage Manager provided that 1 independent method of timekeeping is



available. Throughout the Rules and Regulations, the instructions for the competition and preparation timekeepers only apply if they are being utilized by the Stage Manager.

Once the competitor has arrived at their assigned station and agreed that the station is set to their specifications, the official preparation timekeeper will ask the competitor if they are ready to begin. The competitor must press the start button on the remote control attached to the clock to begin their 15 minutes of preparation time before touching anything at their station. The designated timekeeper will begin a stopwatch the moment the competitor raises their hand and calls "time". If competitor's preparation time is ready to begin and the competitor is not ready, their time may be started at the discretion of Stage Manager. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that they are ready prior to the start of their preparation time.

7.2 Cart

Competitors are responsible for the loading and unloading of supplies on the provided waiter's cart. The preparation timekeeper will remove the cart off stage at the end of the competitor's preparation time. The waiter's cart is not allowed on stage during the performance. Please note that if items are left on the cart after the competitor's preparation time has concluded, the competitor may not retrieve those items until their performance is underway (See "Forgotten Accessories" section).

7.3 Judges' Presentation Table

The judges' presentation table can be set during the competitor's preparation time, including the serving of water. If a competitor does not wish to pre-set the judges' presentation table during their preparation, they can set the table at the start of their competition/performance time.

7.4 Practice Shots

Competitors are allowed and encouraged to pull practice shots during their preparation time. "Pucks" (also known as "cakes") may remain in the portafilters at the start of the competitor's competition time.

Portafilters do not need to be engaged in the machine at the start of competition time.

7.5 Pre-Heated Cups

Cups can be preheated during the competitor's preparation time. However, no water may be present in cups at the start of the competitor's competition time otherwise 0 points will be awarded in "Station management". Liquids or ingredients must not be placed on top of the machine otherwise 0 points will be awarded in "Station management".

7.6 End of Preparation Time

Competitors may not exceed their allotted 15 minutes of preparation time. The timekeeper will give the competitor a 10-minute, 5-minute, 3-minute, 1-minute, and 30-second warning during their 15 minutes of

preparation time. At 15 minutes, the official preparation timekeeper will indicate that time has expired and ask the competitor to step away from the station. Any competitor who fails to cease preparation within 15 minutes will be subject to penalties as shown in the “Time Penalties” section below.

8. Competition Time

8.1 Microphone and Master of Ceremonies

Competitors are required to wear a wireless microphone during their performances; however, the microphone will only be on during the performance time. In the Semi-Final and Final rounds, the Master of Ceremonies (emcee) will introduce the competitor to the audience.

8.2 Begin Competition Time

- A. The Master of Ceremonies will ask the competitor if they are ready to begin. Before introducing themselves to the judges, the competitor must start the official clock by pressing the button located on the remote control or by using a method instructed by the Stage Manager. The designated timekeeper will begin a stopwatch the moment the competitor starts the official clock timer, to begin their 15 minutes of competition/performance time.
- B. Tracking time elapsed during the 15-minute competition/performance time is the responsibility of the competitor, though they may ask for a time check at any point. The competition timekeeper will give the competitor a 10- minute, 5-minute, 3-minute, 1-minute, and 30-second warning during their 15 minutes of competition time. The timekeeper is required to vocalize these warnings in real-time and may interrupt a competitor while they are speaking.
- C. If the clock malfunctions for any reason, competitors may not stop their performance. In the case that the clock has malfunctioned, the timekeeper’s time is the official time for the competition. The competitor will receive the same warnings noted above.

8.3 Competitor Introduction

At the start of the competitor’s performance, they will introduce themselves to the 4 sensory judges and the head judge. The 4 sensory judges and head judge will be behind the judges’ presentation table. The technical judge will stand towards 1 side of the station or behind the station and will take reasonable care to not interfere with the competitor. Shadow judges may be present on stage. Shadow judges will not inhibit the competitor or stand in the judges’ way; they should be positioned behind sensory judges or at the end of the Judges table. Shadow judges will not score a presentation. They are present simply to take notes on a competitor’s performance, which may be used for review by the judges in deliberation. Shadow judges are not mandatory.

8.4 Serve Required Beverages

- A. All drinks must be served at the judges' presentation table(s). Drinks not served at the judges' presentation table(s) will receive a score of 0 in Taste Experience and Accuracy of Flavor Descriptors.
- B. Competitors are required to serve the WBC-provided unflavored water to the 4 sensory judges for each beverage course. Competitors are not allowed to provide their own unflavored water for the judges, and nothing is to be added to the WBC-provided water. Competitors can serve water to the judges at the start of the performance time or when the first set of drinks are served. Water glasses should be filled as needed throughout the presentation.

8.5 Runners Clear the Served Drinks

After each set of drinks has been served to and evaluated by the judges, a runner will clear the drinks from the judges' presentation table at the direction of the head judge. Runners will remove cups, saucers and spoons used in the previous beverage course. If a competitor has special instructions for the runner, they will need to explain these instructions to the runner, head judge, and the WBC stage manager before the start of their competition time, otherwise the standard of cups, saucers and spoons will be removed. If instructions were not given to the head judge and the WBC stage manager and if the wares the competitor wants onstage were removed by the runner, retrieval of the wares is allowed in accordance with 9.2 Forgotten Accessories. The runner will make every reasonable effort to avoid impeding the competitor, but it is the competitor's responsibility to navigate their station successfully.

8.6 Station Perimeters

Competitors may only utilize the work area provided by the WBC: the machine table and presentation tables. The introduction of any other furniture and/or equipment that is placed directly on or over the competition area floor (e.g., a stand, table, dumbwaiter, bench, etc.) will result in automatic disqualification. Competitors may not utilize any space under any competition tables for storage, otherwise the competitor will receive 0 points in the "Station management/Clean working area at end" section. The only allowed exceptions to the rule are a free-standing knockbox; and steps or platforms as necessary for baristas to fully access the espresso machine & presentation tables. These allowed additions must be provided by the competitor and are the sole responsibility of the competitor.

8.7 End Competition Time

- A. Competition time will be stopped when a competitor raises their hand and says "time". It is the competitor's responsibility to call "time" clearly to allow the time to be recorded accurately. Only the time recorded by the head judge or official timekeeper will be used for scoring purposes.



- B. The competitor may choose to end their performance at any time. For example, competitors can stop the clock once their final drink is placed on the presentation table to be served to the judges or may choose to go back to their station to clean before stopping the clock.
- C. Competitors are allowed up to 15 minutes for completion of their performance without penalty. There is no penalty or additional incentive to complete a performance in less than 15 minutes.

8.8 Communication After the Competition Time

Competitors may not talk to the judges once their performance has ended. Any communication provided to judges after the completion of a presentation will not be considered for scoring evaluation. Competitors may continue to talk to the Master of Ceremonies after the competition time has ended; however, the judges will not consider conversation or information given after the competition time.

8.9 Time Penalties

- A. If the competitor has not finished their preparation or presentation during the allotted 15-minute period, they are allowed to proceed until the preparation or presentation is completed.
- B. A point shall be deducted for every second over 15 minutes from the competitor's total score up to a maximum penalty of 60 points (1 minute).
- C. Any competitor whose preparation or performance period exceeds 16 minutes will be disqualified.

8.10 Coaching

Instructions or 'coaching' may not be provided to a competitor during any time on stage under penalty of disqualification. WCC encourages audience participation and enthusiastic fan support that does not interfere with competition. Coaches, supporters, friends, or family members are not allowed on stage or to interfere with the competition while it is in progress, otherwise the competitor is subject to disqualification by the stage manager or presiding head judge.

9. Technical Issues

- A. A competitor may raise their hand and declare a "technical time out" in the event that they believe there is a technical problem with any of the following WBC-provided equipment:
 - i. The espresso machine (including power, steam pressure, control system malfunction, lack of water or drain malfunction)
 - ii. The grinder
 - iii. The audio-visual equipment (such as the competitor's music or microphone)
- B. Preparation or competition time will be paused by the stage manager (during preparation time) or by the head judge (during competition time). The official timekeeper will make note of time

when “technical time out” is called. It is the competitor’s responsibility to ensure the timekeeper is aware of the “technical time out” being called.

- C. If the stage manager/head judge agrees there is a technical problem that can be easily resolved, they will decide the appropriate amount of time for the competitor to be credited. Once the technician has fixed the problem, the competitor’s time will resume.
- D. If the technical problem cannot be solved in a timely manner, the stage manager/head judge will make the decision whether or not the competitor should wait to continue their performance or stop the performance and start again at a reallocated time.
- E. If a competitor must stop their competition time, the competitor along with the head judge and stage manager will reschedule the competitor to compete in full again later.
- F. If it is determined that the technical issue is due to competitor error or the competitor’s personal equipment, the head judge may determine that no additional time will be given to the competitor, and the preparation or competition time will resume without time being credited.
- G. No time credit will be issued for technical issues caused by improper use; therefore, it is the responsibility of all competitors to understand and follow the correct use of all competition equipment.
- H. A technical time out for inconsistency or variation between group heads requiring adjustment may only be declared during preparation time.

9.1 Obstructions

- A. If any individual, such as volunteers, judges, audience members, or photographers are of an obvious hindrance to a competitor, then the competitor will be given additional time at the discretion of the head judge.
- B. If the judges’ presentation table has not been cleared within a reasonable amount of time after each set of drinks has been served, then the competitor will be credited time for the delay this error has caused at the discretion of the head judge.

9.2 Forgotten Accessories

- A. If a competitor has forgotten any of their equipment and/or accessories during their preparation time, they must inform the stage manager or timekeeper, and the competitor may exit the stage to retrieve the missing items; however, their preparation time will not be paused.
- B. If a competitor has forgotten any of their equipment and/or accessories during their competition time, they must inform the head judge that they have forgotten an item(s) offstage and then retrieve the missing item(s) themselves. The competition time will not be paused.
- C. Nothing may be delivered by the runners, supporters, team members, or the audience, otherwise the competitor is subject to disqualification by the presiding head judge.

10. Clean-up Time

Once a competitor has completed their performance, they should begin cleaning up the station. A station runner will bring the waiters cart back out on stage for the competitor to load their supplies on. If a competitor brought their own electrical equipment, the station runner can help the competitor remove these items from the station. Competitors are expected to remove all their personal equipment and supplies and thoroughly wipe down their station. The judges do not evaluate the clean-up time.

11. Team Bar

11.1 Purpose

The purpose of the WBC Team Bar activation is to foster a sense of community, to celebrate the idea that coffee is a collaborative effort, and to create a mechanism for a Wild Card participant to be selected for the Semi-Finals Round.

11.2 Procedure

- A. Teams are assembled by considering geographic diversity and the last 6 years of competition ranking data. Effort is made to ensure both geographic diversity and balanced odds, based on historical performance.
- B. Each competitor participates in a shift on the WBC Team Bar, along with other members of their team. The shift will be broken into set-up, service, and clean-up times.
- C. The team will plan their service and set up their bar during set-up time.
- D. The team will serve the public during service time.
- E. The Team will clean the bar during clean-up time.
- F. Coffee, ingredients, brewing tools, and general supplies and appliances will be provided for the competitors and will be communicated prior to the event.
- G. Teams can be published in advance of the WBC or announced onsite at the Orientation Meeting.
- H. Competitors who fulfill their Team Bar shifts will be eligible for the Wild card Semi-Finals slot. See Team Bar Competition Scoring for details on how the winning team is calculated and how the Wild Card participant is selected.

12. Post Competition

12.1 Scorekeeping

12.1.1 WBC Official Scorekeeping

The WBC official scorekeepers are responsible for adding all scores and for keeping all scores confidential.



12.1.2 Competitor's Total Score

In Round One, the competitor's total score will be tallied by adding the sum of the technical scoresheet and all 4 sensory scoresheets, then deducting any time penalty. Please note the head judge scoresheet does not count towards the competitor's total score in Round One. In the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, the competitor's total score will be tallied by adding the sum of the 4 sensory scoresheets, the Station Management and Clean Working Area at End scores from the Head Judge scoresheet, then deducting any time penalty.

12.1.3 Tie Scores

If there is a tie between 2 or more competitors, the official scorekeepers will total all the involved competitor's sensory espresso scores (Part I from all 4 sensory scoresheets). The competitor with the highest sensory espresso score will win the tie and place above any other competitor with the same total competition score.

If the tied competitors have the same sensory espresso score, then the higher placement will be awarded to the competitor with the higher total sensory milk beverage score (Part II from all four sensory scoresheets).

If the tied competitors have the same sensory espresso and milk beverage scores, then the higher placement will be awarded to the competitor with the higher "Total impression" score (Part V from all four sensory scoresheets).

12.1.4 Team Competition & Team Bar Scoring

Scoring for the Teams Competition is based on competitors' Round 1 ranking.

The Team score is calculated by determining the average ranking for the entire team. However, if a competitor has failed to fulfill their Team Bar shift, they will not be eligible for the Wild Card slot and they will gain a ranking disadvantage of one place, for the purposes of calculating the team average. Disqualified competitors will be calculated as the final ranking number. If a competitor fulfills their Team Bar shift, their ranking will be calculated as it stands.

Example 1: Competitor X attends their Team Bar shift. Their individual Round 1 ranking is 18. For the purpose of the Teams Competition, their Team Rank will be calculated as 18 and they will be eligible for the Wild Card slot.

Example 2: Competitor Y does not attend their Team Bar shift. Their individual Round 1 ranking is 21. For the purpose of the Teams Competition, their Team Rank will be calculated as 22 (21 + 1), and they will not be eligible for the Wild Card slot.

Example 3: Competitors W & Q have been disqualified. There are 60 total competitors in the WBC. Competitor W attends their Team Bar shift; Competitor Q does not. For the purposes of the Team Bar,

Competitor W's ranking will be calculated as 60 and Competitor Q's ranking will be calculated at 61 (60 + 1). Neither one will be eligible to earn the Wild Card slot, due to the disqualification.

Once all Average Team Ranks are compiled, the team with the lowest average (highest ranking) wins the Team Competition and earns the Wild Card slot. The highest scoring member of the winning team who is not already advancing to the Semi-Final round will advance as the Wild Card competitor in the Semi-Final round.

12.2 Debriefing

Following the competition, competitors will have an opportunity to review their scoresheets with the judges online in accordance with the announced schedule. Competitors are allowed to keep their original scoresheets after the WCC event manager scans the scoresheets. Please be aware your scoresheets may be made public after the completion of the WBC.

13. Evaluation Criteria

13.1 What the Judges are Looking for in a Barista Champion

The judges are looking for a champion who:

- A. Has a mastery of technique, craft, and communication and service skills; and is passionate about the barista profession.
- B. Has a broad understanding of coffee knowledge beyond the 12 drinks being served in the competition.
- C. Prepares and serves high quality beverages.
- D. May serve as a role model and a source of inspiration for others.

13.2 Evaluation Scale & Scoring

13.2.1 Types of Scoring

There are 4 types of scoring:

- Yes/No
- Numeric Scores (Accuracy): 0-3
- Numeric Scores (Impression): 0-3
- Numeric Scores (Experience): 0-6

13.2.2 Yes/No Score

Yes = 1, No = 0

The competitor receives 1 point for a score of Yes on this item, and 0 points for a score of No.

13.2.3 Numeric Scores (Accuracy)

0 – None to evaluate

1 – Not very accurate (acceptable/average)

2 – Somewhat accurate (good/very good)

3 – Very accurate (excellent/extraordinary)

Available scores range from 0 to 3. Half-points are not permissible. Judges should score as follows: A score of 0 indicates that nothing was available to score in this category (e.g., no descriptors were named). A score of 1 indicates that the elements in this category were incorrect or not very accurate (acceptable/average). A score of 2 indicates that elements in this category were somewhat accurate (good/very good). A score of 3 indicates that elements in this category were mostly or all accurate. Certain scores are weighted and multiplied by 2 or 4. Scores of 0 require the approval of the head judge.

13.2.4 Numeric Scores (Impression)

0 – None to evaluate

1 – Not very (acceptable/average)

2 – Somewhat (good/very good)

3 – Very (excellent/extraordinary)

Available scores range from 0 to 3. Half-points are not permissible. Judges should score as follows: A score of 0 indicates that nothing was available to score in this category. A score of 1 indicates that the elements in this category made a low or average impression (acceptable/average). A score of 2 indicates that elements in this category made a good or mixed impression (good/very good). A score of 3 indicates that elements in this category made a high impression (excellent/extraordinary). Certain scores are weighted by 2. Scores of 0 require the approval of the head judge.

13.2.5 Numeric Scores (Experience)

Unacceptable = 0

Acceptable = 1

Average = 2

Good = 3

Very Good = 4

Excellent = 5

Extraordinary = 6



Available scores range from 0 to 6. Half points are permissible in the range of 1 to 6. Judges are encouraged to use the full range of scores. Low numbers indicate a poorer experience and higher indicates a better experience. Certain scores are weighted and multiplied by 2 or 4.

Scores of 0 require approval of the Head Judge.

14. Technical Evaluation Procedure

A technical judge will be present in Round One of the World Barista Championship, and no technical judges will be present in the Semi-Final and Final Rounds. In the absence of a technical judge, Station Management and Clean working area at end will be captured by the head judge. The following is an explanation of the technical scoresheet.

14.1 Technical Scoresheet – Part I

14.1.1 Clean Working Area at Start-up/Clean Cloths

- A. The cleanliness and organization of the competitor's workstation (worktable, prep table, top of machine) will be evaluated on a scale between 1 and 6. If the area is deemed messy, a 1 will be recorded.
- B. Verify the competitor's ability to organize the working area in a practical and efficient way.
- C. Over preparation should be marked down (e.g., milk in the pitchers, etc.)
- D. A minimum of 3 clean cloths should be available when the performance time starts. The cloths must be clean and have a designated purpose (i.e., 1 for the steam wand, 1 for drying/cleaning baskets, and 1 for bar clean up. A towel on the competitor's apron/person for 1 of these uses is included in this count).
- E. If there is any water in the cups on top of the espresso machine at any time, the competitor will receive a score of 0 for "Station management/Clean working area at end."
- F. Competitors may have pucks (used coffee grounds) in the portafilters at the start of their competition time. This will not count against "Clean working area at start-up/Clean cloths."

14.2 Technical Skills Espresso – Part II

Please note the technical skills standards are the same for all 3 beverages. The technical scoresheet is the same in Part II, III and IV.

14.2.1 Flushes the Group Head

Flushing of the group head must occur in the time after removal of the portafilter and prior to each extraction. If the group head was flushed prior to the extraction of the served beverages, the judge will mark "Yes."

14.2.2 Dry/Clean Filter Basket Before Dosing

If the filter basket is completely dry and clean prior to the served beverages, the judge will mark "Yes."

14.2.3 Acceptable Spill/Waste When Dosing/Grinding

Spill/waste is ground coffee left unused during the competition/performance time that may be found in the espresso grinder's dosing chamber, in the knock box, on the counter, in the trash, on the floor or elsewhere. Waste created in the process of preparing beverages that are not served to judges does not count towards a competitor's total waste evaluation. Spill/waste of up to 5 grams of unused coffee per beverage category is considered acceptable. In order to earn a score of excellent 5 or higher, the waste must not exceed 1 gram of unused coffee per beverage category. Wasting more than 5 grams of coffee per beverage category is unacceptable and will result in 0 points. A reasonable amount of coffee purged is not included in waste. All coffee used for drinks must be ground during competitor's 15 minutes competition time.

14.2.4 Consistent and Effective Dosing and Tamping

The competitor must demonstrate a consistent method for dosing and tamping. The competitor should evenly distribute the coffee grounds, and a levelled tamping of adequate pressure is expected. Cultural differences are taken into consideration.

14.2.5 Cleans Portafilters (Before Insert)

Cleans basket rim and side flanges of portafilter before insert into the machine. If done, the judge will mark "Yes."

14.2.6 Insert and Immediate Brew

The competitor should start the extraction immediately after inserting the portafilter into the machine without any delay. If done, the judge will mark "Yes."

14.2.7 Extraction Time (Within 3 Second Variance)

Judges will time all shots extracted and determine whether shot extraction times are within a 3.0-second variance. If the extraction time is within a 3.0-second variance of each other within each category of drinks, the judge will mark "Yes." Extraction time begins when the competitor activates the machine's brew cycle. Shot times for shots that are not served will not be included in this score.

14.3 Technical Skills Milk Beverage – Part III

Please note the first 7 evaluation areas are the same as under the Espresso Evaluation – Technical Skills.

14.3.1 Empty/Clean Pitcher at Start

The competitor should pour cold, fresh milk into a clean pitcher, which must not have been filled during the preparation time. The pitcher should be clean on both inside and on the outside.

14.3.2 Purges the Steam Wand Before Steaming

The competitor should purge the steam wand before inserting it into the milk pitcher.

14.3.3 Cleans the Steam Wand After Steaming

The steam wand should be cleaned with a dedicated steam wand towel.

14.3.4 Purges the Steam Wand After Steaming

The competitor should purge the steam wand after steaming the milk.

14.3.5 Acceptable Milk Waste at End

The pitcher should be more or less empty after the milk beverages have been prepared. Acceptable waste is no more than 90ml/3oz in total.

14.4 Technical Skills Signature Beverage – Part IV

Please note the evaluation areas are the same as under the Espresso Evaluation – Technical Skills

14.5 Technical – Part V

14.5.1 Station Management/Clean Working Area at End

- A. Technical judge will evaluate the competitor's overall workflow and use of tools, equipment, and accessories. In the absence of a technical judge, the head judge will evaluate the Station management and cleanliness at the end of the performance/competition time.
- B. The competitor should display an understanding of the correct use and operation of the espresso machine.
- C. The competitor should display an understanding of the correct use and operation of the grinder – including the management of coffee in and through the grinder. Competitors should be grinding coffee for each shot or set of shots.
- D. The technical judge will evaluate the competitor's workflow throughout the presentation, including: the organization and placement of tools, cups and accessories; the competitor's movement and flow in and around the workstation; the cleanliness and maintenance of the station (equipment, counters, towels, pitchers); the management of coffee and ingredients (milk, signature beverage ingredients). In the absence of a technical judge, the head judge will evaluate the Station management and cleanliness at the end of the performance/competition time.
- E. Liquids or ingredients must not be placed on top of the machine; otherwise, 0 points will be awarded in "Station management/Clean working area at end."
- F. The cleanliness of the area is evaluated. If a spill occurs, the competitor should have it cleaned up by the end of their performance time. Cleaning while working (e.g., removing spent grounds or wiping tables) will improve the competitor's score, as will cleaning the station before they

end their performance time. All wares and tools (e.g., tampers, cups, trays, pitchers) are included in this evaluation including items on the espresso machine and worktables. Spent pucks (used coffee grounds) are allowed to be in the portafilters at the end of the performance and are not part of this score.

14.5.2 Clean Portafilter Spouts

- A. The competitor needs to remove any water or grounds on the portafilter spouts by cleaning the spouts. Rinsing, using a towel, and wiping with fingers are all acceptable methods for achieving clean spouts.
- B. If the competitor has clean portafilter spouts before each extraction, the judge will mark "Yes."

14.5.3 General Hygiene Throughout Presentation

The judge will determine this score based on the competitor's sanitary practices throughout their entire presentation. If proper hygiene is used for the entire presentation, the judge will mark "Yes."

Examples of unacceptable practices include:

- Touching hands to face, mouth, etc. and then using the hands for beverage preparation.
- Touching the floor and then using the hands for beverage preparation.

14.5.4 Proper Usage of Cloths

The judges will evaluate the correct and sanitary usage of the competitor's cloths. The competitor should use one for the steam wand, one for cleaning the filter basket and one for the workstation.

Examples of unacceptable practices are:

- Using a non-dedicated cloth to clean a steam wand (using it for some other purpose other than using it to clean a steam wand.)
- Anything that is not sanitary or food safe with a cloth such as: touching it to face, mouth, etc.
- Using a cloth once it has touched the floor or dropped.

15. Sensory Evaluation Procedure

Each competitor will be evaluated by 4 sensory judges. The following is an explanation of the sensory scoresheet.

15.1 Espresso Evaluation – Part I

- A. Espressos will be evaluated using the following protocol by all sensory judges. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores.
- B. Sensory judges will stir the espresso 3 times with a spoon (moving the spoon front to back) to mix the flavors within the shot, then immediately taste. Sensory judges will take at least 2 complete sips to fully evaluate the espresso. Judges will not taste the espresso off the spoon.



- C. Competitors may override the evaluation protocol by giving the judges specific alternative instructions on how they want the espresso evaluated. As long as the instructions are reasonable, and are not in contradiction with other rules, the judges should follow all instructions given by the competitor.

15.1.1 Crema

Judges will visually evaluate the appearance of the crema for presence in the vessel. To score a “yes” the crema must stretch across the entire surface of the espresso and not have any holes or broken spots.

15.1.2 Accuracy of Taste Descriptors

Judges will listen to the taste (flavor and aftertaste) descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the beverage served. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors match the taste experience of the espresso. Taste descriptors must be given or a score of 0 will be received in this category.

15.1.3 Accuracy of Tactile Descriptors

The judges will listen to the tactile descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the thickness and texture of the beverage served. The judges will score how accurately the given description matches the tactile sensation of their espresso. If the experience matches the description, but the tactile experience score is low, high marks cannot be given. If no descriptors are provided, the competitor will receive a 0 for this score.

15.1.4 Taste Experience

The taste experience of the espresso is evaluated to determine the quality of the beverage. Judges will evaluate the components of the overall taste experience of the espresso across both the espresso’s flavor and aftertaste to determine their quality, how well they fit together, and how well they complement each other. “Flavor” is defined as the combined perception of basic tastes (including sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami) and aromatic qualities. “Aftertaste” is defined as the combined sensation of basic tastes and aromatic qualities that remain after coffee has left the mouth (either by swallowing or spitting). Both the taste components of the extraction and the coffee itself are evaluated.

If one or more of the taste components detracts from the flavor experience of the espresso (e.g., sour, acrid) the aftertaste of the espresso (e.g., “bitter”), lower marks are given. If the taste component contributes positively to the overall taste experience, higher marks are given.

If the espresso is unbalanced (lacking in a certain taste component in a way that detracts from the overall positive experience or if a taste component is overpowering the beverage), the experience score is reduced.

Note: Accuracy of taste description is not taken into consideration for this score.

15.1.5 Tactile Experience

The quality of the tactile experience, or mouthfeel, is evaluated. Judges will evaluate the tactile sensation of coffee in the mouth, based on the thickness and texture of the espresso served. The espresso should have a tactile experience that correlates to the preparation, method of extraction, and coffee used in the espresso.

“Thickness” relates to the perceived weight or viscosity of the espresso, from thin to thick. Texture is defined as the perceived sensation of grittiness to smoothness (e.g., “watery,” “tea-like,” “velvety”). The quality of thickness and texture is based upon the tactile feeling of the espresso in the mouth. Both a light and heavy weight can receive high scores relative to the texture quality in the mouth. If the weight and/or texture detracts from the espresso experience (e.g., “watery,” “rough,” or “dusty”), lower marks are given. If the perception of weight and texture contribute positively to the experience of the espresso, higher marks are given. The tactile experience that is present after the coffee has left the mouth will be taken into consideration in the Tactile Experience (e.g., astringent, or silky).

15.2 Milk Beverage Evaluation – Part II

- A. Milk beverages will be evaluated using the following protocol by all sensory judges. It is important that sensory judges follow this protocol consistently. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores.
- B. Sensory judges will first evaluate the appearance of the milk beverage. Next, they will take an initial sip from anywhere on the rim of the cup. After the initial sip, the sensory judges will revisit the milk beverage for at least 1 additional sip from an undisturbed location on the rim of the cup.
- C. Competitors may override the evaluation protocol by giving the judges specific alternative instructions on how they want the milk beverage evaluated. If the instructions are reasonable, and are not in contradiction with other rules, the judges should follow all instructions given by the competitor.

15.2.1 Visual Appeal

Judges will evaluate the appearance of the milk beverage to determine its visual score. On the surface, the milk beverage should have a color combination of milk and coffee, with good color contrast definition, balance in the cup, symmetrical design and a smooth, and possibly glossy/glass-like sheen.

It is not acceptable for milk beverages to be topped with any additional spices and/or powders. Doing so will result in a 0 in the “Taste Experience” category.

15.2.2 Accuracy of Taste Descriptors

Judges will listen to the taste (flavor and aftertaste) descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the beverage served. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors



match the taste experience of the milk beverage. Taste descriptors must be given or a score of 0 will be received in this category.

15.2.3 Taste Experience

The milk beverage is a beverage consisting of 1 espresso and steamed milk served at a temperature that is immediately consumable. The texture and temperature of the beverage, and the taste of the coffee and milk will be included in the taste experience evaluation. The milk beverage should have a harmonious balance of the sweetness of the milk and its espresso base. The taste profile (flavor and aftertaste) of the beverage served should support specialty coffee, with a balance created by the addition of milk.

15.3 Signature Beverage Evaluation – Part III

Signature beverage evaluations vary due to the variety of options presented by the competitor. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores.

15.3.1 Accuracy of Taste Descriptors

Judges will listen to the taste descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the beverage served. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors match the taste (flavor and aftertaste) of the signature beverage. Taste descriptors must be given or a score of 0 will be received in this category.

15.3.2 Well explained, Introduced, and Prepared

The competitor must explain their signature beverage to the judges. To achieve a high score, the explanation should include factual points such as the ingredients, preparation method, and the flavors and/or aromas the judges will experience. The description should include the coffee used and the connection between the coffee and the other ingredients. When scoring this component, the judges will also take into consideration the consistency between the signature beverages' final presentation once served (similar volumes and general presentation). A high score in this category cannot be awarded if the competitor does not serve all or most of the prepared signature beverage. Acceptable waste is no more than 20ml in total.

Sensory judges will listen to the explanation of ingredients, preparation method, and use of coffee given by the competitor and take notes. The competitor must explain to the sensory judges how to drink the beverage (smell, stir, sip, etc.). The sensory judges will listen and follow drinking instructions to the best of their ability. If no information or instructions are given, judges will individually choose how to evaluate the signature beverage. In every case, judges should take a minimum of 2 sips of the signature beverage.

Judges will evaluate the signature beverage based on competitors' provided explanations or other observations during the 15-minute presentation only. Any explanation given by the competitor after the completion of the presentation time will not be considered by the judges.



15.3.3 Taste Experience

Judges will evaluate the signature beverage on how well the taste components of the espresso and other ingredients fit together and complement each other in the total experience of the signature beverage. Signature beverages that present a flavor profile that mimics or matches the espresso's flavor may not receive high scores. Signature beverages that create new flavor experiences may receive higher scores.

If one or more of the taste components detracts from the experience of the beverage (e.g., "sour," "acidic"), lower marks are given. If the taste component contributes positively to the beverage experience, higher marks are given.

If the beverage is unbalanced (i.e., lacking in a certain component that detracts from the overall positive experience or if a component is overpowering the beverage), the taste experience score is reduced.

Note: Accuracy of description is not taken into consideration in this score.

15.4 Barista Evaluation – Part IV

15.4.1 Attention to Details/All Accessories Available

All accessories should be readily available, and the working area should be well and purposefully organized. Everything should have its own place and purpose. Judges should look for the competitor to have back-up cups and accessories in case of mistakes or spills. Refilling of judges' water glasses also demonstrates attention to detail. The espresso and the milk beverage must be served with a napkin, and unflavored water. A spoon must be served for the espresso and milk beverage courses, unless the competitor wants to override the drink evaluation protocol, and instructs the judges to drink the espresso and/or milk beverage without the use of a spoon. The competitor will receive a reduced score if the cups used are not functional or not all appropriate items are served.

15.4.2 Presentation

Presentation is evaluated based on the presentation skills of the barista and the concept of the performance. Judges look for originality in concept, methods, techniques, and ingredients used. Judges consider (allowing for culture and personality differences) points such as natural, clear, and concise communication, as well as the ability to manage workflow and time. Good customer service skills (e.g., politeness, accuracy, attentiveness, eye contact, etc.) will also be taken into consideration.

15.4.3 Coffee Knowledge & proper use of equipment and space

This category includes evaluating the observed qualities relevant to the barista profession, such as technique, preparation, and demonstrating the wider understanding of coffee beyond the preparation of the 12 drinks served. Wider coffee knowledge includes the process of coffee cultivation, roasting and preparation from seed to cup as well as an implicit understanding of the correct use of the equipment. Judges will look for a strong correlation between what is explained and what is delivered. The competitor

must demonstrate that they are a coffee professional who has command over their presentation and coffee.

15.5 Judges' Total Impression – Part V

The “Total impression” score is meant to capture the composite impression of the performance in its entirety. The judge should consider how the concept was supported by the barista and the delivery of their presentation; how the three courses complimented/highlighted the concept. Some sample guiding questions are included below.

For example: Did the performance inspire a deeper connection to coffee? Did the barista’s performance illuminate a part of the systems map in a unique way? Did their performance provoke new thoughts about specialty coffee? Was the experience immersive, thought-provoking, or otherwise important to specialty coffee? Was the performance insightful and inspiring? How positive was the composite experience of the beverages, concept, and content delivery to the judge? Did the performance celebrate the craft of coffee? The judge should feel free to use the entirety of the scoring scale, based on their own impression of the performance in its entirety.

16. Appeals at the World Barista Championship

This section applies to WCC only, see the section “Appeals at Competition Body Events” below for information on the appeal process at Competition Body events.

16.1 Judging/Scoring Issues at the World Coffee Championships

Scorekeeping questions will be answered by the judging team during competitor debrief. If a competitor has further questions, the head judge and/or Judge Operation Lead (JOL) will be consulted. If the competitor feels that there has been an error that is unresolved, they may protest in writing (see Appeals section below). The appeal will be reviewed by judge leadership, WCC staff, and the WCC Competition Strategic Committee (CSC) and a representative of the WCC will inform the competitor of the decision.

If in the unlikely event that the head judge or any other WBC personnel discovers or suspects potential dishonest behavior by a WBC judge during a competitor’s evaluation, then the following will apply:

- The head judge will request the return of all applicable score sheets from the official score keeper.
- The head judge will meet with the WBC judge(s), WCC Staff, and WCC CSC Chair(s) to evaluate the situation.
- The WCC Staff and WCC Chair(s) will then evaluate the situation in a closed meeting.

If the matter of dishonesty is extensive, the WCC CSC Chair(s) has the power to rule that the WBC judge will be excluded from judging in any future WBC sanctioned competitions.



16.2 Other Issues at the World Coffee Championships

If a competitor has an issue regarding the WBC during the competition (e.g. scheduling, logistics, etc.), the competitor should contact the WCC staff onsite. The WCC staff will make every effort to resolve the issue on-site at the WBC. The WCC staff will contact all involved parties. The competitor's issue will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the WCC staff team and WCC JOL. The WCC staff will inform the competitor of the decision.

16.3 Appeals at the World Coffee Championships

If a person does not agree with a decision, they may appeal the decision in writing. All persons must submit their written complaint or appeal through the complaint form available on the website at <https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations> within 24 hours of the incident. The complaint will be received by the WCC team and will be evaluated.

The appeal letter must include the following:

- Name
- Date
- A clear and concise statement of the complaint
- Date and time references (if applicable)
- Comments and suggested solution
- Party/Parties involved
- Contact information

Any written protests/appeals omitting this information will not be considered. Active competition appeals that are discussed in public commentary before a final decision is made will be dismissed.

16.4 Appeals Reviewed at the World Coffee Championships

The WCC Staff will review written complaints or appeals and endeavor to respond as soon as possible. Please note that the final resolution will be delivered within 30 days of receipt. The person will be contacted in writing via email with conclusive decisions. All appeal decisions are final.

17. Competition Body Events

17.1 Highlighting Rule Variations for Competition Bodies

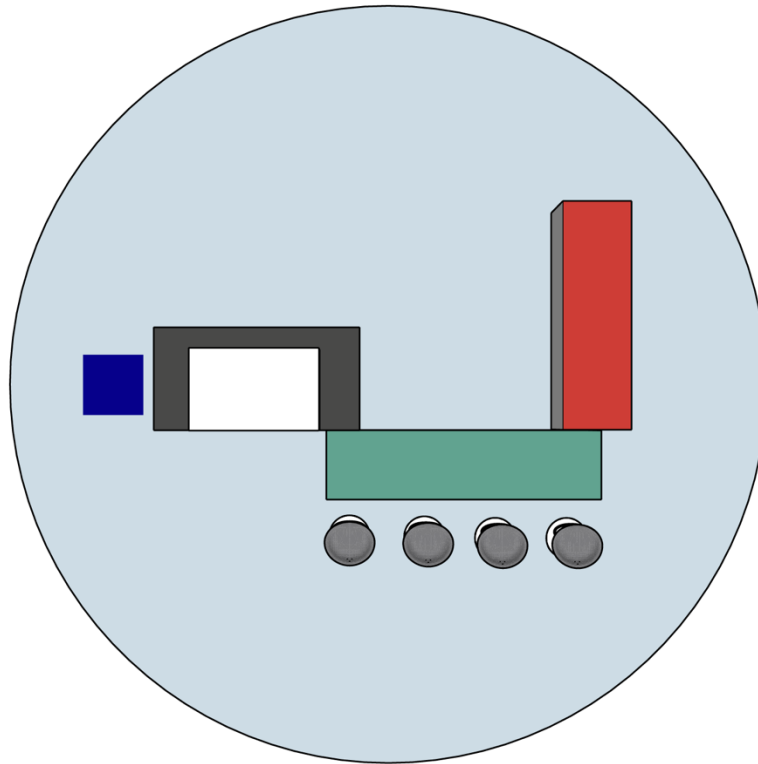
Below is a list of some important mandatory differences between the Competition Body rules and world rules (as listed in R&R).

There is also additional information about permitted logistical adjustments for Competition Bodies.

Mandatory Differences:



- Competition Body competitions will be run with 4 sensory judges, 2 technical judges, and 1 head judge.
- Competition Bodies are required to use a single temperature for all group heads on their provided espresso machines.
- Competition Bodies are required to use a single standard station layout as shown below, with table dimensions as close as possible to the indicated ranges. A circular or square no-media area may be used as appropriate. Grinders may go on either side of the espresso machine.



 Espresso Machine Table (1.8L x 0.90W x 0.75-1.00H)

 Presentation Table (1.8-2.4L x 0.60-0.75W x 0.75-1.00H)

 Worktable (1.8L x 0.60-0.75W x 0.75-1.00H)

 Garbage Bin

 No Media Circle or Square (7m diameter)

Permitted Logistics Adjustments for Competition Body event:

- **Compliance with Local Laws/Regulations:** Competition Bodies may adjust their national rules when required to comply with local laws and/or regulations. Any proposed changes must be sent to info@wcc.coffee for approval in advance of the event.
- **Rules and Regulations Translation:** Competition Bodies may offer a translation of this document. However, to resolve any disputes, the official World Barista Championship Rules and Regulations will be used. Competition Bodies cannot modify rules related to judging and evaluation.
- **Rounds/Competition Procedure:** Competition Bodies may vary the number of rounds within the Championship. The number of rounds and the number of competitors per round can vary (e.g., a Competition Body can eliminate semi-finals or hold only one round of competition, depending on competitor numbers and event logistics). The Team Bar round is not required at the Competition Body Championship.
- **Competitor Minimum:** Competition Bodies Championships must have a minimum of 6 competitors for their final and WCE Sanctioned event. If the minimum of 6 competitors is not reached, Competition Bodies must contact their Regional Community Director at least 2 weeks before the scheduled competition.
- **Qualifying Rounds:** Competition Bodies may hold qualifying or preliminary competitions ahead of their Championship. The structure of qualifying competitions is up to the Competition Body and may have slight format variations (e.g., 2 sensory judges instead of 4 or 2 beverages served instead of 3). Structure cannot be modified for the final Championship event but may only be modified for qualifying or preliminary competitions which lead up to the final Championship event. WCC Reps are not required for Qualifying/Preliminary Events. WCC Reps are required for the Championship Event.
- **Practice Time:** Scheduled practice time for competitors may vary and will be determined by the Competition Body. However, every competitor must get the same amount of scheduled practice time.
- **Practice Location:** Practice may be on stage, backstage, or off site. The location of the competitor's practice time will be determined by the Competition Body.
- **Provided Equipment:** Competition Bodies are not required to use the same sponsored equipment as the WBC. If an equipment sponsor is acquired by a Competition Body, the Competition Body may independently specify their equipment requirements.
- **Scoresheet Return:** Competition Bodies may return physical scoresheets to competitors at the event, or they may email them to the competitors after the event.
- **Microphones and Music:** Competition Bodies may or may not allow competitors to play music and have competitors wear wireless microphones, depending on the venue and available audio-visual equipment.

- **Competitor Debriefing:** Judges will have a debrief time with competitors. The schedule for the debrief time will be set by the Competition Body. Debrief may be during and/or after the event.
- **Competitor Orientation:** All competitors should get the same information in advance of the competition. All competitors should be informed of what equipment will be used, practice schedule, competition schedule, etc.

17.2 Appeals at a Competition Body Event

If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding their Competition Body Championship during the event, the first step should be to contact the event organizer and/or WCC Representative on site. All problems should be attempted to be resolved as soon as possible. On-site solutions are the most effective and appropriate. Appeals made after the competition's end are more difficult to effectively arbitrate.

If the event organizer decides the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site, the event organizer will contact the involved party/parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor's issue and/or protest will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the event organizer and the designated onsite WCC Representative. The CB event organizer and/or WCC Rep will inform the competitor of the decision.

If the competitor wishes to appeal the decision, they should utilize the complaint form available on the website at <https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations> within 24 hours of the incident. The complaint will be sent directly to the CB and the WCC Rep indicated in the submission. If the appeal is logistics-related, the CB is fully responsible for the investigation and any arbitration, if applicable. The WCC Rep must participate in this process by consulting on the appeal. If the appeal is judge or rules related, the WCC Rep will investigate the issue and provide a suggested arbitration to the CB. The CB is always responsible for responding to the complaint in written form and is considered the primary contact for complaints at CB events.

The CB and WCC Rep must report all written appeals to the WCC staff within 24 hours of receipt. However, WCC staff does not directly certify or manage Competition Body judges or volunteers and so cannot arbitrate their actions. Appeals from CB events may take additional time to address; the person submitting the appeal should expect to see a resolution within 30 days.