



The classes are as follows:

British Dark Beers up to 4.4%	BDB
British Dark Beers 4.5 to 6.4%	BPDB
British Bitter (up to 4.4%)	BBB
British Premium Bitter (4.5% to 6.4%)	BPB
Session IPA (up to 4.3%)	BSI
Premium PAs (4.4% to 5.4%)	BPP
IPA (5.5% to 6.4%)	BI
Imperial IPA 6.5% and over	BII
Standard Lager & Pilsners up to 4.4%	BSL
Premium Lager & Pilsners 4.5 to 6.4%	BPL
Amber & Dark Lager up to 6.4%	BDL
Speciality Light Beers	BSPL
Speciality Medium to Dark Beers	BSPD
Sours/Spontaneous	BPS
Strong Beers 6.5% and over	BST
No/Low Alcohol Beers	BLA

**N.B. ANY ALLERGENS, INCLUDING CEREALS CONTAINING GLUTEN, MUST BE DECLARED AT TIME OF ENTRY**

**British Dark Beers up to 4.4%**

**[BDB]**

- Embraces the following styles: Dark Mild, Stout, Dark Bitter, Porter and Brown Ale.
- Includes beers that are typically without assertive hop bitterness
- Includes Brown Ales of both Northern and Southern Style
- Must be no stronger than 4.4% ABV
- Stout styles in this class include: Oyster Stout (with or without oysters), Irish Dry, Milk/Cream (sweet), Oatmeal and English.
- Porters in this class include both brown and black (robust)
- Stouts, Porters, Strong Brown, Barley Wines and Old Ales of 4.5% ABV and above should be entered into the Premium Strong Beers category
- Mild Ale Character: Low bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Brown Ale Character (Southern style): Colour: Deep reddish brown to almost black. Low bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Brown Ale Character (Northern style): Colour: Deep amber to reddish brown. Low to medium bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Stouts will be typically very dark brown or black in colour
- Porter colour will range from dark brown with reddish tint (Brown style) to black (Robust/black style).
- An old ale of a lighter colour may be entered in either this category or the appropriate-strength Bitter category, at the discretion of the brewer
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **British Dark Beers up to 4.5 – 6.4%**

**[BPDB]**

- Embraces the following styles: Dark Mild, Stout, Dark Bitter, Porters, Old Ale, Barley Wine and Brown Ale.
- Includes beers that are typically without assertive hop bitterness
- Includes Brown Ales of both Northern and Southern Style
- Includes Barley Wines of both British and American Style
- Must be between 4.5 – 6.4% ABV
- Stout styles in this class include: Oyster Stout (with or without oysters), Irish Dry, Milk/Cream (sweet), Oatmeal and English.
- Porters in this class include both brown and black (robust)
- Stouts, Porters, Strong Brown and Old Ales of 6.5% ABV and above should be entered into the Premium Strong Beers category
- Mild Ale Character: Low bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Brown Ale Character (Southern style): Colour: Deep reddish brown to almost black. Low bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Brown Ale Character (Northern style): Colour: Deep amber to reddish brown. Low to medium bitterness. Low hop flavour and aroma.
- Stouts will be typically very dark brown or black in colour
- Porter colour will range from dark brown with reddish tint (Brown style) to black (Robust/black style).
- An old ale of a lighter colour may be entered in either this category or the appropriate-strength Bitter category, at the discretion of the brewer
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **British Bitters (up to 4.4%)**

**[BBB]**

- Includes Bitters, Blonde ales, Golden Ales, Pale Ales and Light Milds that are no stronger than 4.4% ABV
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and straw.
- These beers can have low to medium levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics but the overall impression must be that of a balance of flavours without harshness.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category
- Does not cover Black Bitters, these are to be entered into the British Dark Beers up to 4.4%

### **British Premium Bitters (4.5 – 6.4%)**

**[BPB]**

- Includes Bitters, Blonde ales, Golden Ales, Pale Ales and Premium Bitters that are between 4.5 – 6.4% ABV
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and straw.
- These beers can have medium to high levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics but the overall impression must be that of a balance of flavours without harshness.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category
- Does not cover Black Bitters, these are to be entered into the British Dark Beers 4.5 – 6.4%

### **Session IPA (up to 4.3%)**

**[BSI]**

- Includes Blonde, Golden, IPA, Session Black IPA and Pale ales that are up to 4.3% ABV
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and black.
- These beers can have high levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics with a dry finish. The beer must be hop forward with the hop character to be noticed.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category
- Does cover Black IPAs.

### **Premium PAs (4.4 to 5.4%)**

**[BPP]**

- Includes Blonde, Golden, IPA, American Pale Ales, American IPA, New Zealand Pale Ale and Black IPAs that are between 4.4 – 5.4% ABV.
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and black.
- These beers can have high levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics with a dry finish. The beer must be hop forward with the hop character to be noticed.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **IPA (5.5to 6.4%)**

**[BI]**

- Includes British IPA, American IPA, IPA, Black IPA, Pale Ale and Strong British Bitter that are between 5.5 – 6.4% ABV.
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and black.
- These beers can have high levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics with a dry finish. The beer must be hop forward with the hop character to be noticed.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **Imperial IPA (6.5% and over)**

**[BII]**

- Includes Imperial British IPA, Imperial American IPA, Double IPA, Imperial Black IPA, Pale Ale and Triple IPA that are 6.5% ABV and over.
- Embraces a range of colours, from deep bronze and copper to amber, golden and black.
- Strong hop forward characteristics, but still easy to palate.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **Standard Lager & Pilsners**

**[BSL]**

- Includes Light Lagers, Pilsners, Helles and Kolsch that are up to 4.4% ABV
- Range of colours from pale yellow/straw to light gold
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **Premium Lager & Pilsners**

**[BPL]**

- Includes Light Lagers, Pilsners, Helles and Kolsch that are 4.5 to 6.4% ABV
- Range of colours from pale yellow/straw to light gold
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **Amber & Dark Lagers**

**[BDL]**

- Includes Dark, Vienna, Dunkel, Marzen Lagers that are up to 6.4% ABV
- Range of colours from amber to dark brown / black
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

### **Speciality Categories Light**

**[BSPL]**

Embraces all styles of beer that are light in colour and contain a non-core brewing ingredient at a level intended to impart a distinctive and discernible flavour note or character. Ingredients may include: Spice / Herb / Honey / Coffee / Chocolate / Fruit / Vegetable / Wood Aged / Smoked (>20%) / Rye (Malted or raw >20%) / Nuts / Wheat (>20% malted or raw & made with wheat beer yeast) and others as per the imagination of the Brewer.

- Category excludes: American style black ales, multigrain and organic beers which should be entered in the appropriate Bitter & Pale Ale category for ABV content.
- The colour of the beer should be from a light blonde to a light copper. It is up to the brewer if their beer is a copper colour, what category it should go into. A colour indication is below:



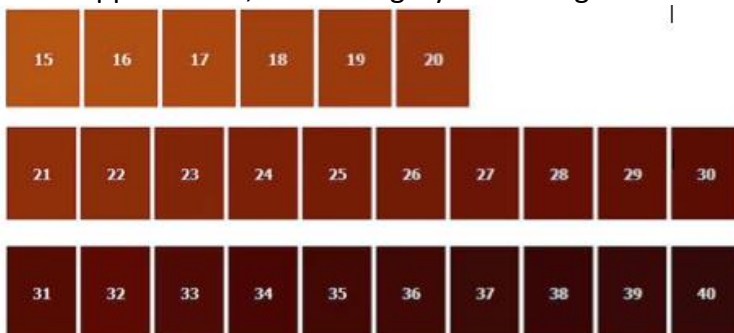
- The use of a non-typical yeast is not warranted as being enough for entry into this category.
- **Gluten Free Beers** are only regarded as speciality if the cereal used is anything other than barley, such as sorghum, rice and millet. Barley based gluten free beers should be entered into the relevant category according to their ABV and style.
- Core brewing ingredients include barley malt and malt extract, hops and hop oils, caramel, brewing sugars, brewer's yeast, water and brewing salts, and fining agents
- Non-barley-malt grain adjuncts can count as a core ingredient, at the discretion of the brewer, if used at low levels (typically no more than 10% of the grist)
- A beer containing a non-core ingredient as defined above must be entered in this category and may not be entered in any other category.
- Entry forms will include space for a note explaining the speciality qualification of the beer, which can then be communicated to the judges
- Does not include Sour or Lager beers.

**Speciality Categories Dark**

**[BSPD]**

Embraces all styles of beer that are medium to dark in colour and contain a non-core brewing ingredient at a level intended to impart a distinctive and discernible flavour note or character. Ingredients may include: Spice / Herb / Honey / Coffee / Chocolate / Fruit / Vegetable / Wood Aged / Smoked (>20%) / Rye (Malted or raw >20%) / Nuts / Wheat (>20% malted or raw & made with wheat beer yeast) and others as per the imagination of the Brewer.

- Category excludes: American style black ales, multigrain and organic beers which should be entered in the appropriate Bitter & Pale Ale category for ABV content.
- The colour of the beer should be from a Medium copper to a dark ruby. It is up to the brewer if their beer is a copper colour, what category it should go into. A colour indication is below:



- The use of non-typical yeast is not warranted as being enough for entry into this category.
- **Gluten Free Beers** are only regarded as speciality if the cereal used is anything other than barley, such as sorghum, rice and millet. Barley based gluten free beers should be entered into the relevant category according to their ABV and style.
- Core brewing ingredients include barley malt and malt extract, hops and hop oils, caramel, brewing sugars, brewer's yeast, water and brewing salts, and fining agents
- Non-barley-malt grain adjuncts can count as a core ingredient, at the discretion of the brewer, if used at low levels (typically no more than 10% of the grist)

- A beer containing a non-core ingredient as defined above must be entered in this category and may not be entered in any other category.
- Entry forms will include space for a note explaining the speciality qualification of the beer, which can then be communicated to the judges
- Does not include Sour or Lager beers.

**Sour/Spontaneous**

**[BPS]**

- Includes Berliner Weisse, Lambic, Sour Beer and Fruit Sour that are of all ABV
- Range of colours from pale yellow/straw to pink
- Tastes sour or with a strong acidity

**Strong Beers 6.5% and over**

**[BST]**

- Includes Old Ales, Strong Ales, Barley Wines, Imperial Stouts, Strong Brown Ales, Strong Golden Beer and Strong Lagers that are 6.5% ABV and above.
- Embraces all styles and colours of strong beer and strong lager that are 6.5% ABV and above, including (but not limited to) Barley Wines (UK & US styles), Imperial & Export Stouts, Strong Ales, Strong Old Ales, Baltic Porters and Winter Warmers and all styles of strong lager. Style to be declared at time of entry.
- These beers can have medium to high levels of bitterness and a range of hop characteristics but the overall impression must be that of a balance of flavours without harshness.
- Must not contain any "speciality" ingredient at a level as defined in the Speciality Beers category

**No/Low Alcohol Beer (up to 0.5%)**

**[BLA]**

- Comprises all beers, including lagers, that are no more than 0.5% abv; de-alcoholised beers are allowed in this category
- Embraces all styles and colours of beer, including lager, that are 0.5% abv and below, including both hop dominant styles and British styles. Style to be declared at time of entry and declared to the Judges.
- Beers should conform to declared style and will be judged to that style
- Speciality ingredients are allowed in this category, but must be declared on the entry form
- Bottles / cans must be labelled with the correct legal terminology and clearly state an alcohol level of no more than 0.5% abv

**A Guide to Flavours & Aromas**

<b>Good?</b>	<b>Bad?</b>
<b>Hop notes: spicy, citrus, fruity, floral</b>	<b>Hop notes: cheesy, grassy, hay like</b>
<b>Malt: Toffee, biscuit, Horlicks</b>	<b>Sweetcorn, tinned tomatoes (DMS)</b>
<b>Malt: Roasted, coffee, chocolate</b>	<b>Butterscotch/buttery (diacetyl)</b>
<b>Smooth bitterness – not harsh</b>	<b>Vinegar (acetic)</b>
<b>Slight tingle on tongue – CO<sub>2</sub> level</b>	<b>TCP, medicinal (phenolic)</b>
<b>Sweetness - where style dictates</b>	<b>Mouth drying, tannin (astringent)</b>
<b>Warming - Alcohol</b>	<b>Wet cardboard, sherry (stale)</b>
	<b>Clove-like (phenolic) – unless wheat beer</b>