



2014 BJCP Style Guidelines

Gordon Strong

BJCP President

Why Change?



- Seriously? Last update was 2008, last major revision with new styles was 2004
- International usage
- Craft beer market continues to evolve
- Increased interest in historical beers
- Changing examples, ingredients
- New research and references
- Increasing complexity in competitions

Goals for the New Guidelines



- Expand guidelines with popular styles
- Better reflect world beer styles
 - Not just styles as they exist in the US import market
- Help competitions manage complexity of entries
- Reduce potential for misunderstanding and misuse
- Reduce ingredient-based descriptors
- Split apart confusing styles with multiple variants
- Make guidelines easier to update in the future

Quick Look at New Style Guidelines



- Category 1: Black IPA
- Category 2: Not Black IPA
- That should just about do it, right?

Terms



- Style
 - Style Guideline Subcategory
 - Critical for judging
 - Well-defined definition
- Category
 - Style Guideline Category
 - Arbitrary grouping for competitions
 - No historical or geographic association implied
- Competition Categories
 - **Do not have to be same as style categories!**
 - Regroup if you don't like the style categories

Anatomy of a Style Description



- Aroma, Appearance, Flavor, Mouthfeel
 - Focus on perception, not ingredient or process
- Overall Impression
 - Expanded, consumer-focused description
- Comments
 - Interesting facts, non-perception comments
- History
 - Brief, but better defined



Anatomy of a Style Description

- Characteristic Ingredients
 - What's important for the style, not a recipe
- Style Comparison
 - How it differs from related styles
- Entry Instructions
 - What, if anything, needs to be provided by entrants
- Vital Stats
- Commercial Examples
 - Generally reduced in number

Expanded Guidance



- Intro to Beer Styles
 - How we organize and categorize beers
 - Common attributes of all beer styles
 - Default assumptions
 - Removes “no diacetyl, no DMS, no esters, no etc.”
 - Glossary
 - Expanded definition of common terms used
- Using the Style Guidelines
 - Guidelines not specifications
 - How not to misuse the guidelines



New Styles

- Historical Category
 - Gose
 - Grodziskie
 - Lichtenainer
 - Sahti
 - Kentucky Common
 - Pre-Prohibition Porter
- Existing styles moved to Historical
 - Pre-Prohibition Lager (aka Classic American Pilsner)
 - Roggenbier
 - London Brown Ale (aka Southern English Brown Ale)



New Styles

- American Wild Ale category
 - Brett Beer
 - Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer
 - Soured Fruit Beer
- Czech Lager category
 - Czech Light Lager
 - Czech Amber Lager
 - Czech Dark Lager
 - Czech Pilsner (aka Bohemian Pilsner)



New Styles

- German Leichtbier
- Trappist Single
- English Golden Ale
- Australian Sparkling Ale
- American Strong Ale
- Wheatwine
- International Pale Lager
- International Amber Lager
- Kellerbier (Munich and Franconian variants)



New Styles

- Specialty IPA
 - Black IPA
 - Brown IPA
 - Red IPA
 - White IPA
 - Belgian IPA
 - Rye IPA
 - Strength: Session, Standard, Double
 - Combinations allowed

Split or Modified Styles



- Premium American Lager
 - Lower half combined with Standard American Lager
 - Upper half split into International Pale Lager
- Oktoberfest
 - Traditional renamed to Märzen (amber)
 - Modern created as Festbier (gold)
- Rye removed from American Wheat
 - Rye moved to Alternative Grains specialty category
- Scottish 60/- and 70/- combined into Scottish Light
- Scottish 80/- and 90/- combined into Scottish Heavy

Split or Modified Styles



- English Brown Ale
 - Broadened Northern English Brown
- Dry Stout split
 - Irish Stout and Irish Extra Stout
- Tropical Stout split from Foreign Extra Stout
- Weizenbock
 - Gold versions allowed (like doppelbock)
- Fruit Lambic
 - Sweetness and carbonation specified, sweet allowed
- Old Ale
 - Overlay on new English Strong Ale style

Renamed or Deleted Styles



Old Style

- Lite American Lager
- Standard American Lager
- Dortmunder Export
- German Pilsner/Pils
- Dark American Lager
- Schwarzbier (Black Beer)
- Maibock/Helles Bock
- Traditional Bock
- Northern German Altbier
- California Common Beer

New Style

- American Light Lager
- American Lager
- German Exportbier
- German Pils
- International Dark Lager
- Schwarzbier
- Helles Bock
- Dunkles Bock
- Deleted (International Amber)
- California Common

Renamed or Deleted Styles



Old Style

- Düsseldorfer Altbier
- Standard/Ordinary Bitter
- Special/Best/Premium Bitter
- Extra Special/Strong Bitter
- Strong Scotch Ale
- Mild
- Brown Porter
- Robust Porter
- Imperial IPA
- Weizen/Weissbier
- Dunkelweizen

New Style

- Altbier
- Ordinary Bitter
- Best Bitter
- Strong Bitter
- Scottish Wee Heavy
- Dark Mild
- English Porter
- American Porter
- Double IPA
- Weissbier
- Dunkels Weissbier

Renamed or Deleted Styles



Old Style

- Belgian Specialty Ale
- Flanders Brown Ale (Oud Bruin)
- Straight (unblended) Lambic
- Christmas/Winter Specialty
- Classic Rauchbier

New Style

- Deleted
- Oud Bruin
- Lambic
- Winter Seasonal Beer
- Rauchbier

Specialty-Type Beers



- Entry Categories more than Classic Styles
- Fruit Beer
 - Fruit Beer
 - Fruit and Spice Beer
 - Specialty Fruit Beer – other fermentables allowed
- Spiced Beer
 - Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer
 - Winter Seasonal Beer
 - Autumn Seasonal Beer

Specialty-Type Beers



- Alternative Fermentables
 - Alternative Grain Beers
 - Honey Beers
- Smoked Beer
 - Classic Style Smoked Beer
 - Specialty Smoked Beer
- Wood-Aged Beer
 - Wood-Aged Beer
 - Specialty Wood-Aged Beer

Specialty-Type Beers



- Specialty Beer
 - Clone Beer
 - Include Beer, Stats, Ingredients or Description
 - Mixed Style Beer
 - Mix of two or more other styles
 - Experimental Beer
- Belgian Specialty styles go into Specialty Beer
- Many current Specialty Beers are now elsewhere



Mead

- Traditional Mead
 - Dry Mead, Semi-Sweet Mead, Sweet Mead
- Fruit Mead
 - Cyser, Pymment, Berry Mead, Stone Fruit Mead, Melomel
- Spiced Mead
 - Fruit and Spice Mead, Spice/Herb/Veg Mead
- Specialty Mead
 - Braggot, Historical Mead, Experimental Mead

Cider



- Standard Cider and Perry
 - New World Cider
 - English Cider
 - French Cider
 - New World Perry
 - Traditional Perry
- Specialty Cider and Perry
 - New England Cider
 - Cider with Other Fruit
 - Applewine
 - Ice Cider
 - Cider with Herbs/Spices
 - Specialty Cider/Perry

Style Organization



- Categorization is still in progress
- Categorized by similarity in judging
 - Less important by style family
 - Trying to avoid judging big beers with small beers
- Style Guidelines are for judging
 - Educational uses might be different
 - Looking into using tagging to facilitate alternative sorting
- Example: Brown English Ale
 - Dark Mild
 - English Brown Ale
 - English Porter



Next Steps

- Make final edits and categorization
- Release for public comment (1-2 months)
 - BJCP web site, BJCP Forum for comments or style@bjcp.org
- Collect comments, review, update
- Publish final version
- Phase-in for exam (question pool, written questions)
- Translations (foreign languages, XML for mobiles, printed formats, etc.)
- Expect to be phased-in by end of the year



Questions?