

Quarterly Geographically Isolated Beer Written Proficiency Exams

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Introduction

Some areas are having difficulty finding six or more judges eligible willing to take the Beer Written Proficiency Exam. In many cases organizers think they have enough people but then they drop out as the exam date gets near. Frequently the drop outs take the site below the minimum needed to offer the exam. This effectively punishes those that want to follow through and take the exam. From the perspective of grading exams, sets of exams smaller than the minimum of six is a very inefficient use of the limited grading resources so we do not want to have sites that are below the minimum size.

In an attempt to alleviate some of the problems we are going to experiment with offering a Written Proficiency exam once a quarter in a way that does not have a size minimum. However, there are going to be a number of additional restrictions that go along with this exam. It will not replace the existing ability to schedule Beer Written Proficiency exam. The restrictions may not make this approach the solution for everyone but we hope it will satisfy a number of potential examinees.

Details

The Exam Directors will select one and only one date within a quarter for this special Beer Written Proficiency Exam. The date will be publicized at least a quarter in advance via the online BJCP exam calendar.

Existing exam graders will be allowed to offer the Written Proficiency Exam to eligible judges on the designated date. Potential exam takers will need to arrange to work with an exam grader well in advance of the exam date. It is expected that if there are multiple interested takers in a metropolitan area that they will all work with a single grader – this is essential in helping minimize the overhead for coordinating this exam.

The potential exam takers will need to pay for their exam at least two months before the exam date. If they drop out later there will be no refund of the exam fees. The takers will pay the grader that is the exam administrator and then the grader will submit the fees to the BJCP via PayPal – no checks to the BJCP will be allowed. The payment in advance helps determine how many examinees there really will be – essential for scheduling grading resources.

The time of day for the exam will be coordinated so that everyone is taking the exam simultaneously, no matter their location, i.e., time zones will be taken into account to coordinate the time.

The designated Exam Director will communicate the exam forms to all the exam administrators approximately a week before the exam date.

After the exam is completed, the individual exam administrators will mail the completed exams to the designated Exam Director.

The Exam Director will wait for all the exams to arrive from all the sites before starting the process through the normal grading cycle. Because of the extra coordination and potential delays waiting for all the exams to arrive it is expected that the grading process for these exams will take longer than normal.

The fee for this exam will be higher than normal to account for the additional overhead associated with having multiple sites. The fee will be \$25 per examinee.

There will be no option to change the date or the designated time of day for the exam. If the restrictions do not fit an individual judge's schedule the judge will have to try for a different exam site or a different quarterly exam.