



THE INDEPENDENT BEER AWARDS ENTRY PROCESS 2021

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THANK YOU

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The Indies Technical Advisory Panel: Michael Capaldo, Scott Hargrave, Jessica Craig, Shawn Sherlock, Richard Watkins and Clare Clouting.



THE INDEPENDENT BEER AWARDS (The Indies)

Championing Independent Brewing. Driving Quality. Celebrating Excellence

The Independent Beer Awards ('The Indies') champions the best of independent brewing.

Delivered to you by the Independent Brewers Association ('IBA'), the Indies are an invaluable platform to showcase excellence in Australian independent beer.

The Indies are judged by a respected panel beer judges dedicated to providing breweries with a high-quality competition, meaningful feedback and honest results.

The Indies are open to independent Australian brewing companies (as defined by the IBA) who distribute their entered beer in Australia. The Indies competition is designed to reflect the Australian consumer beer market and create greater consumer awareness of the quality and diversity of the independent brewing industry.

Indies 2021 Key Dates

All dates and locations are subject to change. Please refer to [this page](#) for the most up to date schedule.

Competition Opens	Wednesday 9 June
Peer Nominated Awards Open	Thursday 1 July
Competition Closes	Friday 9 July
Labels sent to breweries	by Friday 16 July
Peer Nominated Awards Close	Friday 30 July
Delivery of entries (will vary according to state depots)	Thurs 22 July- Fri 6 August
Competition Judging-	Thurs 19 - Fri 20 Aug
BrewCon 2021- Sunshine Coast Convention Centre	Tues 31 Aug- Wed 1 Sept
Indies Awards Presentation Night- Novotel Twin Waters	Wed 1 September

ELIGIBILITY

Brewery Eligibility

Australian independent breweries

Australian independent brewing companies that meet the IBA's definition of an [Independent Brewer](#) are eligible to participate in the 2021 Indies if they have produced beer for commercial sale. Breweries that don't meet the IBA's definition of an Independent Brewer at time of announcement (The Indies Awards Ceremony) can be ruled ineligible.

Breweries-in-planning and/or those not in commercial operation as of 30 June 2021 are not eligible to participate.

Eligibility compliance

If requested by the competition organisers, brewing companies may be required to provide proof of annual production volume with an annual excise statement from their national taxation office for the previous twelve (12) months prior to entry into the 2021 Indies. This excise statement is required to be a formal statement in English. These statements are treated as confidential and will be destroyed following the completion of the Indies.

Beer Entry Eligibility

A brewing company may enter unlimited beers into the competition.

All beers entered into the 2021 Indies must have been commercially available in Australia at some time in the 12 months prior to 16 July 2021. If requested by the competition organiser, brewing companies may be required to verify commercial availability by providing the details of at least one stockist or outlet.

Beers must be entered into the correct style and class. See the [IBA 2021 Style Guidelines](#) for more details. No single beer may be entered in more than one style. Packaged and draught versions of the same beer must be entered into the same style.

Collaboration beers may only be entered by one party, which must be the party that has the greatest ownership (financial interest) in the beer. If financial interest is equally shared, the beer must be entered by the brewery where the beer was produced.

Many styles require additional information in order to assist the proper judging of entries. Any additional information provided will be edited by the competition manager to ensure that it does not identify the beer being judged.

If a brewing company or beer entry does not meet the eligibility requirements above as of the 30th June 2021 and has registered for the Indies, the brewing company and/or beer entry may be subject to disqualification without refunds or without further notice.

The Independent Brewers Association retains sole discretion to determine eligibility for competition at the Indies.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judge Selection

Judges for the Indies are selected from the brewing industry and include brewers, sensory experts, suppliers, consultants and writers. Judges are selected based on their sensory abilities, industry and peer recognition, knowledge of beer styles and the brewing process, and their judging demeanour.

Indies judges perform several important roles. They assess competition entries against stringent award criteria to determine winning beer entries. They are also expected to provide concise, accurate written feedback to breweries regarding their entries, describing both positive attributes as well as defects noted during the competition.

Judges will be selected by the Head Judge and Indies Advisory Group from Expressions of Interest.

Judging Process

Each Indies entry is assessed at a table of at least four Judges, plus an Associate Judge. This table is led by an experienced Judge Captain. The Judge Captain protects the integrity of the competition, facilitates table discussion, and ensures that the judging runs smoothly.

Judges very rarely evaluate more than 30 beers in any one three-hour session and never evaluate their own products, or other products in which they may have a commercial interest.

Judging is blind, with no brand knowledge of any kind provided to judges.

Each beer is judged individually on its sensory merits and adherence to the competition style guidelines contained within the [2021 Indies Style Guidelines](#).

Once all beers have been judged, each beer is discussed as a group and determined to be Gold, Silver, Bronze, or no medal. Table comments are collected for each beer and are provided as feedback to brewing company after the competition.

Medals

GOLD

An outstanding beer displaying the correct appearance, aroma, flavour and balance according to style with a high level of technical merit; a world-class example.

SILVER

An excellent beer maintaining close adherence of appearance, aroma, flavour, balance appropriate to style; an excellent example.

BRONZE

A very good beer that has minor deviations from style parameters and/or appearance, aroma, flavour, balance appropriate to style; a fine example.

Champion Trophies

Champion Category Beers

Eligible to entering independent Australian brewing companies.

A champion trophy is presented to the best single beer in each of the following categories:

- Pale Ale
- Amber Dark Ale
- Porter Stout
- Hybrid Beer
- Lager
- India Pale Ale
- European-style Ale
- Session Beer
- Strong Beer
- Mixed Culture Beer

Champion category beers are determined through a second-round process, where all gold medal entries of a particular category (e.g. Pale Ale) are rejudged against one another to determine the Champion Beer of that category.

Champion Independent Beer

A champion trophy is presented to the overall Champion Independent Beer. The Champion Independent Beer is determined through a third-round process. All Champion category beers are re-tested by a selected judging panel. These entries are judged against each other to determine the Champion Independent Beer for 2021.

Champion Independent Large Brewery

Annual production: 300,000 – 40 million litres per annum

To be eligible for the Champion Australian Independent Large Brewery Trophy, a brewery must enter at least four (4) beers and one of those beers must achieve a gold medal.

Points allocated for top four beers, determined by point calculation matrix. Brewery must identify entering this category upon entry.

Champion Australian Independent Small/Medium Brewery

Annual production <300,000 litres per annum

To be eligible for the Champion Australian Independent Small/Medium Brewery Trophy, a brewery must enter at least four (4) beers and one of those beers must achieve a gold medal.

Points allocated for top four beers, determined by point calculation matrix. Brewery must identify entering this category upon entry.

Champion Independent Brewpub

At least 75% beer produced on-site

Brewpub definition:

“A brewpub services its local community and can be a pub, taproom or restaurant that brews beer on-premises.”

To be eligible for a Champion Brewpub Trophy, a brewery must enter at least four (4) beers and one of those beers must achieve a gold medal.

Points allocated for top four beers, determined by point calculation matrix. Brewery must identify entering this category upon entry.

State and Territory Champion Brewery Awards

A minimum of three (3) breweries in each State or Territory must enter for this Award to be valid.

State and Territory Champion Brewery Awards are as follows:

- NSW
- QLD
- VIC
- WA
- SA
- TAS
- ACT & NT

To be eligible for a State or Territory Champion Brewery Trophy, a brewery must enter at least four (4) beers and one of those beers must achieve a gold medal.

Brewery state or territory must be identified when entering.

Champions can be from Brewpub, Small/Medium Brewery or Large Brewery categories. Winner will be determined by the point calculation matrix.

Point Matrix

Scores are calculated from the top four entries submitted. The highest scoring brewery from each category – Small/ Medium, Large and State/Territory Awards will be named the winner.

Points are awarded per medal to determine Champion Awards as follows:

Champion Category	1 point
Gold	5 points
Silver	3 points
Bronze	1 point



HOW TO ENTER

To enter the 2021 Indies:

Read through the 2021 Independent Beer Awards Entry Process & [Style Guidelines](#) and identify the best style that applies to your beer.

Complete the online entry form [here](#)

The entry form can be saved and completed at a later date (before July 9). An email will be automatically generated, with link, to return to the form and complete.

Entry Fees

Entry fees are payable online with credit card upon completion of entry form, or request an invoice during entry process.

IBA Brewery Member	\$200*
Non-Member	\$300*

*Cost per entry. All entry fees are exclusive of GST

Once an entry has been submitted through the online form, a confirmation email will be sent. It is the brewing company's responsibility to ensure that all entry details are correct.

Entry Requirements

Packaged Beer

The minimum amount of packaged beer required for competition judging is as follows:

Pack Size	Amount Required
< 375 mls	12 bottles/cans
500 mls	10 bottles/cans
675 mls	8 bottles/cans
750 mls	6 bottles/cans

Each entry must be packed in its own carton. Do not pack more than one entry in the same carton.

Draught Beer

Each draught entry must consist of at least ten (10) litres. Kegs must be fitted with either A, D, or Key Keg couplers. Draught entries not using these types will not be judged. Cornelius kegs and other home-brew type containers are not accepted. Kegged beer decanted into containers will not be accepted. This includes growlers or products canned off draught.

Draught entries submitted must be the property of the brewing company (including one-way kegs) or of a keg-rental provider used under agreement. Each keg is required to each be labelled with its contents and ownership details using the Indies entry labels provided. Kegs that do not meet these requirements will be withdrawn and disqualified from the competition.

After the competition, kegs are collected by the IBA logistics partner for collection or return to the brewery. One-way kegs will be disposed of unless otherwise indicated from the brewery.

Label Requirements

After entries close, breweries will be emailed labels to be attached to entered beers. Labels must be attached to each bottle/can or keg of the beer entry prior to dispatch.

Labels provided include the following information:

- Entry no.
- Brewery Name
- Entry Name
- Category ID
- Style ID
- Packaging type (i.e. Bottles/Cans/Keg)

Labels will be emailed to each brewery's nominated contact by Friday 16 July 2021. Entries not bearing the Indies competition label will not be judged.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES

Detailed shipping information and labels will be sent to participating breweries once the registration process is complete.

Competition entries to the Indies must be received between Monday 26 July and Friday 6 August 2021. Late entries will not be accepted.

Delivery Discounts for IBA Members

Chill Logistics is the 2021 Indies Australian transportation partner. Chill Logistics has devised an economical schedule of rates for the transport of entries to the competition judging venue. Discounted rates are available for IBA Members. Detailed shipping information will be sent to participating brewing companies once registration is complete.

Post-Event Publicity and Use of Awards Materials

The IBA encourages award-winning breweries to promote their winning entries and trophies.

To preserve the integrity of the competition, only official Awards graphics and logos are permitted for use in publicity and marketing materials.

Publicity material and use of the Awards logo must include:

- Category in which Award was received
- Type of Award received (e.g. Gold, Silver, Bronze, Champion)
- Year the Award was received
- The name of the beer and brewery exactly as it was entered into the competition

Usage of these logos must be pre-approved by the Independent Brewers Association. Requests for approval can be submitted to the Independent Brewers Association at events@iba.org.au

The IBA is also working with key partners to provide direct to consumer marketing and publicity on behalf of winning breweries. We would love to be able to share your success, and give your product support in market post-announcement. Ideally that means your product is available in the months after the awards to capitalise on your success.

TERMS OF CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Registration completed as incorrect type (e.g. non-members registering as IBA members) will be adjusted automatically on invoicing.
- Entries must have had commercial release in the 12 months prior to 16 July 2021.
- Entries are accepted on the condition that the brewery submits a completed entry form and pays the entry fee by the invoice due date.
- Entry fees are due on the date shown on the invoice and payable in full.
- Entries will not be judged if the entry invoice has not been paid in full one week prior to competition.
- Entry forms must be submitted by 9 July 2021. Entry forms received after 9 July 2021 will not be considered.
- The final day to withdraw entries from competition is 16 July 2021. Entries withdrawn prior to this date will receive full refund minus an administration fee of 50% (per entry). No refund will be given for entries withdrawn after this date.
- All beer entered must bear correct labelling information as provided by the IBA.
- Each entry must consist of the minimum amount as outlined in this document.
- All beer received for judging will be kept by organisers and may be used at their discretion.
- The IBA may at its discretion:
 - Alter the closing date for The Indies.
 - Rule that an entry may not compete or is ineligible to compete.
 - Rule that a brewing company is ineligible to compete; or
 - alter the date, time or place on or at which the awards are scheduled to take place.
- All decisions of the Event Organiser, Competition Manager and Judges on competition matters are binding and final.

2021 INDIES STYLE LIST

With Our Thanks

The Independent Brewers Association (IBA) would like to acknowledge and thank the Brewers Association® for permission to use the following Brewers Association Beer Style Guidelines 2021.

The categories and styles have been placed in a different order from the original Brewers Association® document to better suit the requirements of the Independent Beer Awards.

The IBA has reviewed the Brewers Association® 2021 Beer Style Guidelines and made changes appropriate to the 2021 Independent Beer Awards.

All content remains the same except for the style guidelines for:

- 1.N- Light American Wheat Beer without Yeast
- 1.D- Light American Wheat Beer with Yeast
- 2.G- Dark American Wheat Beer with Yeast
- 2.H- Dark American Wheat Beer without Yeast
- 4.W Wood and Barrel Aged Pale to Amber
- 4.X- Wood and Barrel Aged Dark Beer
- 5.Z- New World Lager
- 6.D – India Red Ale; 6.E – India Black Ale
- 8.E – Session Beer/Reduced Alcohol Beer.
- 6.D India Red Ale is renamed as Double Hoppy Red Ale
- 6.E- India Black Ale
- 8.E- Session Beer/Reduced Alcohol Beer
- 9.L- Wood and Barrel Aged Strong Beer

Changes for 2021

Style additions:

- 1.P- New Zealand-Style Pale Ale
- 4.MM- Kentucky Common Beer
- 6.G- New Zealand-Style India Pale Ale
- 7.K- Belgian-Style Speciale Belge
- 8.F- Belgian-Style Session Ale

Used with the permission of Brewers Association®

STYLE GUIDELINES

The Independent Beer Awards Aus. categorizes multiple beer styles into classes, suitable to requirements of competition judging.

In 2021, the categories for the Independent Beer Awards Aus. are:

1. Pale Ale
2. Amber Dark Ale
3. Porter Stout
4. Hybrid Beer
5. Lager
6. India Pale Ale
7. European-Style Ale
8. Session Beer
9. Strong Beer
10. Mixed Culture Beer

Category	Style No.	Style Name
1. Pale Ale	1.A	Special Bitter or Best Bitter
	1.B	Extra Special Bitter
	1.C	Scottish-Style Export Ale
	1.D	Scottish-Style Light Ale
	1.E	English-Style Summer Ale
	1.F	Classic English-Style Pale Ale
	1.G	Golden or Blonde Ale
	1.H	American-Style Pale Ale
	1.I	German-Style Koelsch
	1.J	Classic Australian-Style Pale Ale
	1.K	Australian-Style Pale Ale
	1.L	International-Style Pale Ale
	1.M	Juicy or Hazy Pale Ale
	1.N	Light American Wheat Beer without Yeast
1.O	Light American Wheat Beer with Yeast	
1.P	New Zealand-Style Pale Ale	
2. Amber-Dark Ale	2.A	English-Style Brown Ale
	2.B	American-Style Amber/Red Ale
	2.C	American-Style Brown Ale
	2.D	American-Style Black Ale
	2.E	German-Style Altbier

Category	Style No.	Style Name
	2.F	Irish-Style Red Ale
	2.G	Dark American Wheat Beer with Yeast
	2.H	Dark American Wheat Beer without Yeast
	2.I	Scottish-Style Heavy Ale
3. Porter-Stout	3.A	Brown Porter
	3.B	Robust Porter
	3.C	Sweet Stout or Cream Stout
	3.D	Oatmeal Stout
	3.E	Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout
	3.F	Export-Style Stout
	3.G	American-Style Stout
	3.H	Smoke Porter
4. Hybrid Beer	4.A	American-Belgo-Style Ale
	4.B	Kellerbier or Zwickelbier
	4.C	Grodziskie
	4.D	Adambier
	4.E	Dutch-Style Kuit, Kuyt or Koyt
	4.F	American-Style Fruit Beer
	4.G	Fruit Wheat Beer
	4.H	Field Beer
	4.I	Pumpkin Spice Beer
	4.J	Pumpkin/Squash Beer
	4.K	Chocolate or Cocoa Beer
	4.L	Coffee Beer
	4.M	Herb and Spice Beer
	4.N	Chili Pepper Beer
	4.O	Specialty Beer
	4.P	Specialty Honey Beer
	4.Q	Rye Beer

Category	Style No.	Style Name
	4.R	German-Style Rye Ale
	4.S	Ginjo Beer or Sake-Yeast Beer
	4.T	Fresh Hop Beer
	4.U	Wood and Barrel-Aged Beer
	4.V	Wood and Barrel-Aged Pale to Amber Beer
	4.W	Wood and Barrel-Aged Dark Beer
	4.X	Aged Beer
	4.Y	Experimental Beer
	4.Z	Historical Beer
	4.AA	Smoke Beer
	4.BB	Gluten-Free Beer
	4.CC	Non-Alcoholic Malt Beverage
	4.DD	American-Style Cream Ale
	4.EE	California Common Beer
	4.FF	Breslau-Style Schops
	4.GG	Finnish-Style Sahti
	4.HH	Swedish-Style Gotlandsdricke
	4.II	Bamberg-Style Bock Rauchbier
	4.JJ	Bamberg-Style Helles Rauchbier
	4.KK	Bamberg-Style Maerzen Rauchbier
	4.LL	Bamberg-Style Weiss Rauchbier
	4.MM	Kentucky Common Beer
5. Lager	5.A	German-Style Pilsener
	5.B	Bohemian-Style Pilsener
	5.C	Munich-Style Helles
	5.D	Dortmunder/European-Style Export
	5.E	German-Style Maerzen
	5.F	German-Style Leichtbier
	5.G	German-Style Oktoberfest/Wiesn

Category	Style No.	Style Name
	5.H	German-Style Heller Bock/Maibock
	5.I	American-Style Lager
	5.J	Contemporary American-Style Lager
	5.K	American-Style Light Lager
	5.L	Contemporary American-Style Light Lager
	5.M	American-Style Pilsener
	5.N	American-Style Malt Liquor
	5.O	American-Style Maerzen/Oktoberfest
	5.P	Australasian, Latin American or Tropical-Style Light Lager
	5.Q	International-Style Pilsener
	5.R	Vienna-Style Lager
	5.S	European-Style Dark Lager
	5.T	Munich-Style Dunkel
	5.U	German-Style Schwarzbier
	5.V	American-Style Amber Lager
	5.W	American-Style Dark Lager
	5.X	Contemporary American-Style Pilsener
	5.Y	New World Lager
	5.Z	Franconian-Style Rotbier
	5.AA	American-Style India Pale Lager
6. IPA (India Pale Ale)	6.A	English-Style India Pale Ale
	6.B	American-Style India Pale Ale
	6.C	Juicy or Hazy India Pale Ale
	6.D	India Red Ale
	6.E	India Black Ale
	6.F	Experimental India Pale Ale
	6.G	New Zealand-Style India Pale Ale
7. European-Style Ale	7.A	Belgian-Style Blonde Ale
	7.B	Belgian-Style Pale Ale
	7.C	Belgian-Style Fruit Beer

Category	Style No.	Style Name
	7.D	Belgian-Style Table Beer
	7.E	Belgian-Style Witbier
	7.F	Belgian-Style Pale Strong Ale
	7.G	Belgian-Style Dark Strong Ale
	7.H	Belgian-Style Dubbel
	7.I	Belgian-Style Tripel
	7.J	Belgian-Style Quadrupel
	7.K	Belgian-Style Speciale Belge
	7.L	Other Belgian-Style Ale
	7.M	French-Style Bière De Garde
	7.N	Classic French & Belgian-Style Saison
	7.O	Specialty Saison
	7.P	German-Style Leichtes Weizen
	7.Q	South German-Style Hefeweizen
	7.R	South German-Style Kristal Weizen
	7.S	South German-Style Bernsteinfarbenes Weizen
	7.T	South German-Style Dunkel Weizen
8. Session Beer	8.A	Ordinary Bitter
	8.B	English-Style Pale Mild Ale
	8.C	English-Style Dark Mild Ale
	8.D	Session India Pale Ale
	8.E	Session Beer/Reduced Alcohol Beer
	8.F	Belgian-Style Session Ale
9. Strong Beer	9.A	American-Style Strong Pale Ale
	9.B	Old Ale
	9.C	Scotch Ale
	9.D	British-Style Imperial Stout
	9.E	American-Style Imperial Stout
	9.F	American-Style Imperial Porter
	9.G	Baltic-Style Porter

Category	Style No.	Style Name
	9.H	South German-Style Weizenbock
	9.I	American-Style Barley Wine Ale
	9.J	British-Style Barley Wine Ale
	9.K	Wood and Barrel-Aged Strong Beer
	9.L	Strong Ale
	9.M	Other Strong Ale or Lager
	9.N	Traditional German-Style Bock
	9.O	German-Style Doppelbock
	9.P	American-Style Imperial or Double India Pale Ale
	9.Q	Juicy or Hazy Imperial or Double India Pale Ale
	9.R	Imperial Red Ale
	9.S	American-Style Wheat Wine Ale
	9.T	German-Style Eisbock
	9.U	Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale
10. Mixed Culture Beer	10.A	Berliner-Style Weisse
	10.B	Leipzig-Style Gose
	10.C	Contemporary-Style Gose
	10.D	Brett Beer
	10.E	Mixed Culture Brett Beer
	10.F	American-Style Sour Ale
	10.G	American-Style Fruited Sour Ale
	10.H	Wood and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer
	10.I	Wild Beer
	10.J	Belgian-Style Lambic
	10.K	Belgian-Style Gueuze Lambic
	10.L	Belgian-Style Fruit Lambic
	10.M	Belgian-Style Flanders Oud Bruin or Oud Red Ale
	10.N	Contemporary Belgian-Style Spontaneous Fermented Ale