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
• 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 Beer
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
- Traditional Mead
  - Dry Mead, Semi-Sweet Mead, Sweet Mead
- Fruit Mead
  - Cyser, Pyment, 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?