

Quarterly Geographically Isolated Beer Written Proficiency Exams

October 21, 2014

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 the numbers dwindle as the exam date gets near. Frequently, the drop-outs take the site below the minimum number of participants needed to offer the exam. This effectively punishes those that want to follow through and take the exam. From the perspective of grading exams, small exam sets are 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, the BJCP is offering a Beer Written Proficiency exam once a quarter in a way that does not have a size minimum. At this time we are not setting an upper limit on the number of examinees at a site, but reserve the right to do so if site(s) become so large as to overwhelm our grading capacity. However, there are a number of additional restrictions that go along with this exam. It will also not replace the existing ability to schedule Beer Written Proficiency exam through the normal scheduling process. 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 one quarter in advance via the online BJCP exam calendar.

Only active exam graders will be allowed to administer the Written Proficiency Exam to eligible judges on the designated date. The list of potential administrators of this quarterly exam can be found online at <http://www.bjcp.org/apps/reports/graders.php>. Potential exam takers will need to contact an eligible exam grader well in advance of the exam date to work out logistics. It is expected that if there are multiple interested takers in a metropolitan area, they will all work with a single grader. This communication is essential in helping minimize the overhead for coordinating this exam.

The potential exam takers will need to pay for their exam at least one month before the exam date. If they drop out later, there will be no refund of the exam fees. The takers will pay the grader who has agreed to be the local 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 will be taking the exam at each site, which is essential for scheduling grading resources. The fee for this exam will be the standard Beer Written Proficiency Exam Fee of \$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.

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 AHA for processing, just like for any other exams.

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