



Francesco Antonelli

CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR
EMEA BJCP Representative (2026-2029)

About me

My name is Francesco Antonelli. I joined the BJCP in 2017 and recently reached the **Grand Master rank**. As a **Lead Grader**, I am directly involved in the exam evaluation process, a role that has given me deep insight into how the exam program works and what it takes to grow it effectively. I regularly organize and proctor exam sessions both in Italy and abroad.

As an **active judge**, I have served on panels at sanctioned competitions in Italy, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Hungary, and others across the region. I have also shared my experience as a speaker at major international conferences, including the **UK BrewCon** and the **AHA HomebrewCon**.

I run Brewingbad.com, a beer and homebrewing blog where I also **publish technical BJCP resources in English** for judges across the region. Italy's growth is a concrete example of what shared mentoring can achieve: since 2017, our community grew from fewer than ten judges to nearly 100, including several Nationals, a Master, and the first Grand Master in Europe.

This journey taught me that **sustainable growth requires continuity and clear, accessible communication**. As your EMEA Representative, I want to put this experience at the service of the wider region.

My priorities for the position

Map and support organizers across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa

An analysis I conducted on the October 2025 BJCP active judges database shows that EMEA represents only 12% of active BJCP judges worldwide; nearly 70% of EMEA countries have fewer than two National-ranked judges available as local proctors. This means that most communities still depend on external support or request exceptional waivers to run exams. I will map where support is most needed and work directly with local organizers to help them access resources, proctors, and exam preparation.

Bring your voice and local needs to the Board

I will collect needs and concerns through direct dialogue at competitions and regional events and remain reachable via email and social media for organizers and judges across the region, including those in countries I may not visit in person. I will bring the most pressing issues to the Board, advocate for concrete responses, and report back on the outcome.

Keep our community connected and informed

I will publish regular updates on EMEA judge counts, rank progressions, and exam activity through official EMEA social media channels. Building on my experience running a weekly newsletter on homebrew competitions in Italy, I will launch a monthly EMEA newsletter and will coordinate closely with the Assistant Representatives to ensure it reflects local community updates across the entire region.

Use my Lead Grader experience where it counts

As a Lead Grader, I understand how crucial efficient exam administration and proctoring are to grading speed and quality. I will use this experience to support local organizers with recruitment and guidance where needed. I will also advocate with the Board for dedicated BJCP funding for EMEA, making our region's specific needs and goals clearer to those who decide how resources are allocated.

With over 800 judges spread across three continents, EMEA demands a coordinated effort. I will work closely with the Assistant Representatives to help established countries support emerging ones, putting my experience in communication and mentoring to work for every local community.