

# Indie Beer Awards – Bottle & Can

## Categories and Guideline Definitions 2026



Alcohol Free Beer (up to 0.5%)	B-AF
Low Alcohol Beer (0.6 – 2.9%)	B-LOW
Session Lager (up to 4.4%)	B-LAG
Premium Lager (4.5% to 6.4%)	B-PLAG
British Bitter (up to 4.4%)	B-BIT
British Best Bitter (4.5% to 6.4%)	B-BBIT
Session Pale Ale (up to 4.4%)	B-SPA
Pale Ale (4.5% to 5.5%)	B-PA
IPA (5.6% to 7.4%)	B-IPA
Double, Triple & Imperial IPA (7.5% and over)	B-DIPA
Speciality IPA	B-SIPA
Amber, Brown & Red Ale (up to 6.4%)	B-ABRA
Session Dark Beer (up to 4.4%)	B-SDB
British Dark Beer (4.5% to 6.4%)	B-BDB
Imperial & Strong Ale (6.5% and over)	B-IMP
Sour & Wild Ale	B-SOUR
Continental Style Beer	B-CSB
Speciality & Flavoured Beer	B-SPF

### N.B. ANY ALLERGENS, INCLUDING CEREALS CONTAINING GLUTEN, MUST BE DECLARED AT TIME OF ENTRY

#### **Alcohol Free Beer**

**[B-AF]**

- Beer styles include all styles of Non-Alcoholic Beer up to 0.5%.
- Colour range: All

#### **Low Alcohol Beer**

**[B-LOW]**

- Beer styles include all styles of Low Alcohol Beer from 0.6 – 2.9%. Any beers of 3.0% or higher should be entered into the relevant style category.
- Colour range: All

#### **Session Lager** (up to 4.4%)

**[B-LAG]**

- Beer styles include British Lager, International Lager, German Lager, Czech Lager, Pilsner, Helles, Kolsch, Craft Lager, Export Lager, IPL
- Colour range: 1-20

#### **Premium Lager** (4.5% to 6.4%)

**[B-PLAG]**

- Beer styles include British Lager, International Lager, German Lager, Czech Lager, Pilsner, Helles, Kolsch, Craft Lager, Export Lager, IPL
- Colour Range: 1-20

- British Bitters** (up to 4.4%) **[B-BIT]**
- Beer styles include Bitter, British Blonde Ale, British Golden Ale, British Pale Ale, Amber Ale, Scottish Light, Light Mild, Welsh Pale Ale
  - Colour range: 1-25
- British Best Bitters** (4.5% – 6.4%) **[B-BBIT]**
- Beer styles include Bitter, Best Bitter, Premium Bitter, ESB, British Blonde Ale, British Golden Ale, British Pale Ale, Amber Ale, Strong Light Mild
  - Colour range: 1-25
- Session Pale Ale** (up to 4.4 %) **[B-SPA]**
- Beer styles include Session IPA, IPA, NEIPA, American Pale Ale, Australian Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, New World Blonde Ale, New World Golden Ale
  - Colour Range: 2-14
- Pale Ale** (4.5% to 5.5%) **[B-PA]**
- Beer styles include IPA, NEIPA, American Pale Ale, Australian Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, New World Blonde Ale, New World Golden Ale
  - Colour Range: 2-14
- IPA** (5.6% to 7.4%) **[B-IPA]**
- Beer styles include IPA, NEIPA, American Pale Ale, Australian Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, New World Blonde Ale, New World Golden Ale, British IPA, American IPA, New Zealand IPA, West Coast IPA, DDH IPA
  - Colour Range: 6-14
- Double & Triple IPA** (7.5% and over) **[B-DIPA]**
- Beer styles include IPA, NEIPA, American Pale Ale, Australian Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, New World Blonde Ale, New World Golden Ale, British IPA, American IPA, New Zealand IPA, West Coast IPA, DDH IPA, Double IPA, Triple IPA, Quadruple IPA
  - Colour Range: 6-14
- Speciality IPA** **[B-SIPA]**
- Beer styles include Fruit Pale Ale, Belgian IPA, Black IPA, Brown IPA, Red IPA, Rye IPA, White IPA, Brut IPA, Sour IPA, Milkshake IPA, Fruit IPA, Raw IPA, Other Flavoured Pale Ale, Other Flavoured IPA
  - Colour Range: All
- Amber, Brown & Red Ale**(up to 6.4%) **[B-ABRA]**
- Beer styles include Amber Ales, Brown Ales, Red Ales, Dark Milds, Old Ales, 60/-, 70/-, 80/-, Scottish Heavy
  - Colour Range: 9-35
- Session Dark Beers** (up to 4.4%) **[B-SDB]**
- Beer styles include Dark Mild, Stout, Dark Bitter, Porter, Brown Ale, Old Ale, Red Ale, Welsh Dark, 60/-, 70/-, Scottish Heavy
  - Colour range: 14-40
- British Dark Beers** (4.5% – 6.4%) **[B-BDB]**
- Beer styles include Dark Mild, Stout, Dark Bitter, Porter, Old Ale, Barley Wine, Brown Ale, Red Ale, 80/-, Scottish Wee Heavy
  - Colour range: 14-40

**Imperial & Strong Ale** (6.5% and over)

**[B-IMP]**

- Beer styles include all styles above 6.5% excluding IPA and Speciality or Flavoured Beers
- Colour Range: 6-40

**Sour & Wild Ale**

**[B-SOUR]**

- Beer styles include Berliner Weisse, Flanders Red Ale, Oud Bruin, Lambic, Gueuze, Gose, Fruited Gose, Fruit Lambic, Brett Beer, Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer, Wild Speciality Beer
- Colour Range: All

**Belgian & Continental Style Beers**

**[B-CSB]**

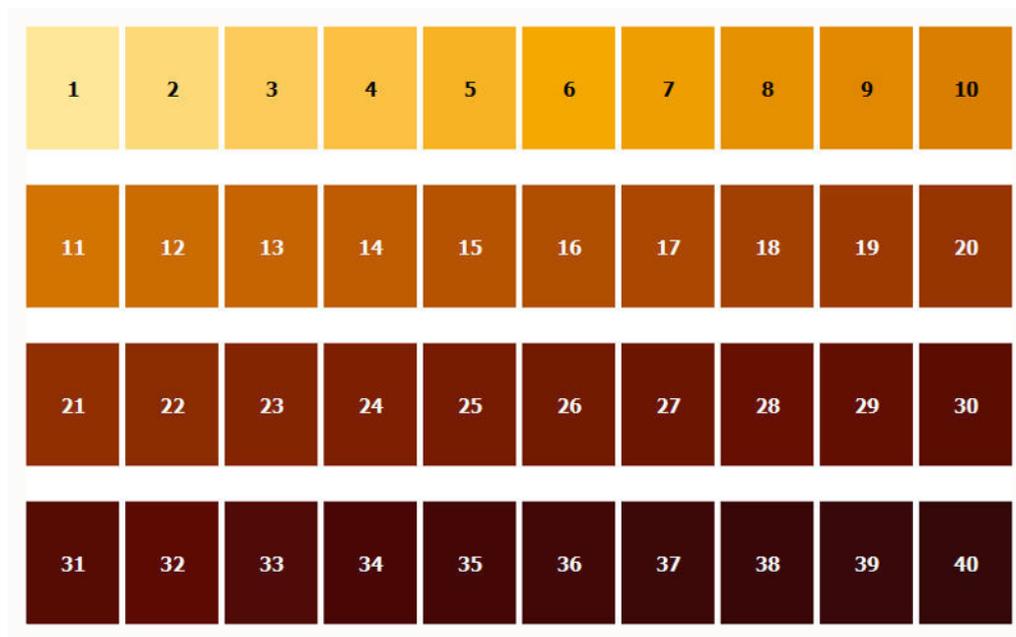
- Beer styles include Belgian, Czech and German Beers, Dubbel, Tripel, Saison, Abbaye Ales, Amber Lagers, Dark Lagers, Marzen, Altbier, Weisse, Wit Beer
- Colour Range: All

**Speciality & Flavoured Beer**

**[B-SPF]**

- Beer styles include Flavoured Beer, Fruit Beer, Spice, Herb or Vegetable Beer, Smoked Beer, Wood Aged Beer
- Embraces all styles of beer that contain a non-core brewing ingredient at a level intended to impart a distinctive and discernible flavour note or character.
- Colour Range: All

**Beer Colour Reference Chart (SRM)**



Please use this as a guide for the beer colour range given in the above style categories

**BJCP 2021 Beer Style Guidelines**

SIBA use the updated Beer Judge Certification Programme (BJCP) [2021 Beer Style Guidelines](#) to define the above beer styles. This can be viewed by [clicking here](#).