

# Indie Beer Awards - Cask

## Categories and Guideline Definitions 2026



Session Dark Beer (up to 4.4%)	C-SDB
British Dark Beer (4.5% to 6.4%)	C-BDB
British Bitter (up to 4.4%)	C-BIT
British Best Bitter (4.5% to 6.4%)	C-BBIT
Session Pale Ale (up to 4.4%)	C-SPA
Pale Ale (4.5% to 5.5%)	C-PA
IPA (5.6% and over)	C-IPA
Speciality Light Beer	C-SLI
Speciality Amber to Dark Beer	C-SAD
Imperial & Strong Beer (6.5% and over)	C-IMP

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

### **Session Dark Beers** (up to 4.4%) **[C-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%) **[C-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

### **British Bitters** (up to 4.4%) **[C-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%) **[C-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%) **[C-SPA]**

- Beer styles include Session IPA, IPA, Black IPA, NEIPA, American Pale Ale, Australian Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, New World Blonde Ale, New World Golden Ale
- Colour Range: All

### **Pale Ale** (4.5% to 5.5%) **[C-PA]**

- Beer styles include American Pale Ale, New Zealand Pale Ale, IPA, New England Pale Ale, DDH Pale Ale, New England IPA, Black IPA
- Colour Range: All

**IPA** (5.6% and over)

[C-IPA]

- Beer styles include British IPA, America Pale Ale, American IPA, IPA, Black IPA, New Zealand Pale Ale, New Zealand IPA, DDH IPA, New England Pale Ale, New England IPA, Double IPA, Triple IPA
- Colour Range: All

**Speciality Light Beer**

[C-SLI]

- Beer styles include Flavoured Beer, Fruit Beer, Spice Herb or Vegetable Beer, Smoked Beer, Wood Aged Beer
- Embraces all styles of beer that are light in colour and contain a non-core brewing ingredient at a level intended to impart a distinctive and discernible flavour note or character.
- Colour Range: 2-14

**Speciality Amber to Dark Beer**

[C-SAD]

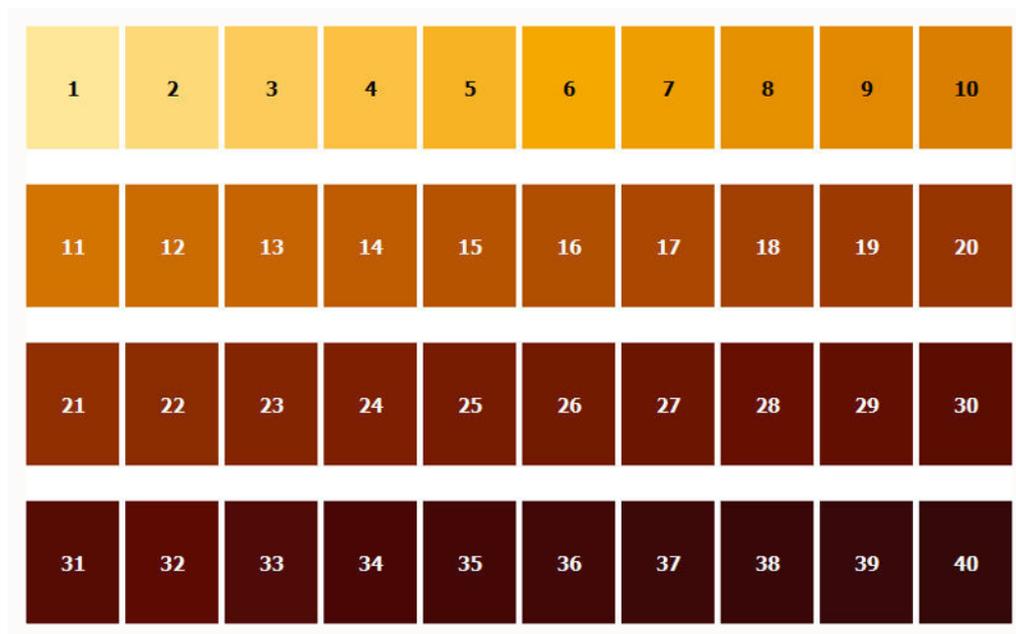
- Beer styles include Flavoured Beer, Fruit Beer, Spice Herb or Vegetable Beer, Smoked Beer, Wood Aged Beer
- Embraces all styles of beer that are amber to dark in colour and contain a non-core brewing ingredient at a level intended to impart a distinctive and discernible flavour note or character.
- Colour Range: 15-40

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

[C-IMP]

- Beer styles include Barley Wine, Winter Warmers, Baltic Porter, Imperial Stout, Export Stout, Extra Double Stout, Strong Ales, Strong Old Ales, Wee Heavy
- Colour Range: 6-40

**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](#).