

# 2020 MASH MADNESS BEER BREWING COMPETITION

## BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE ILLIANA BEER RACKERS UNION AND THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BREWERS SOCIETY GUIDELINES FOR THE EVENT

The 2020 Mash Madness brewing competition between the members of the Illiana Beer Rackers Union (IBRU) and the Northwest Indiana Brewers Society (NIBS) will be hosted by IBRU and will be held on Saturday, April 4, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Off Square Brewing, 11000 Delaware Parkway, Crown Point, IN (telephone 219-310-8898).

### GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Tournaments will typically be held on a Saturday in early April. The two clubs will alternate hosting responsibilities (place, date and time, prizes, and supplies – cups, tables and chairs, blackboard, bracket sheets, scrap paper for tasting notes, water and oyster crackers, etc.), with IBRU taking on the 2020 competition. Formal announcement of the event will be coordinated between the clubs and timed for posting concurrently on each club's Facebook website.
- The Mash Madness bracket comprises 16 entries of homebrewed beer, with 8 entries from each club's membership. The play will be a single-elimination competition, mimicking the NCAA "March Madness" bracket basketball tournament in concept.
- Only one entry will be allowed per club member; however, if a club is unable to fill its 8 slots, members of that club may submit more than one entry to make up the shortfall. In the event that a club has more than 8 members registered for the competition, the ninth and any additional entries will serve as back-ups in case a substitute is needed to fill all slots. On competition day, a no-show will be replaced by a back-up member entry from the same club first, and if unable to do so, from the other club; byes are to be avoided.
- Any style home-brewed beer can be entered into the competition. The entry fee will be \$8, which will be used to pay for expenses, supplies, and prizes – thus making \$128 total available.
- A self-funding bracket side-bet competition will also be held, similar to March Madness, with a separate \$5 entry fee for those who wish to participate. Anyone present may fill out a bracket and compete in the side bet.
- Additionally, a side contest on naming the correct BJCP Category (i.e., Standard American Beer, International Lager, Czech Lager, etc., rather than the BJCP Style) of all of the entries will be held with one monetary prize for the most correct answers. All members with beer entries in the competition, along with those tasting and thus voting for the winners, will be eligible to participate in this side contest. Participants may use the BJCP 2015 Style Guidelines to help determine their choices.
- Regarding quantities of beer to bring, assuming 1 oz. pours into 2 oz. cups and about 20-25 voters, each entrant will have to bring two 12 oz. bottles per round, which would be a max of 10-12-oz bottles, 12 to be conservative. Any combination of bombers, crowlers, growlers, or a keg can be brought that add up to about 144 oz.
- Leftover or otherwise extra bottles can be made available for trade among the entered competition participants in a brief forum after the completion of the event. Those not wishing to trade their beer can just take it home.

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### PRE-COMPETITION ACTIVITIES:

- All entrants are to submit their beer for entry prior to a pre-announced cutoff date. An electronic entry link, specific to Mash Madness and available to both clubs on their respective websites, will be used for all contestants to register their entry. Again, the limit will be 8 entries for each club.
- A random number generator or other random process will be used by the host club to assign each beer to a numbered slot in the bracket. Beers will be identified by the random number corresponding to their slots only (i.e., 1, 2, 3, etc. to 16) rather than by BJCP Category or Style, or the name of the beer. The pairings will be truly random among all entrants from both clubs for the first round of competition.
- Pre-prepared bracket sheets will be made up by the host showing the numbered slots, so that they can be used for side-betting on the day of the event.

### SETUP ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION:

- Typically at least two tables will be used to lay out the tasting matchups, with other pairs of tables available as space allows. On the left side of one table will be one set of tasting cups (one per voter), each with one oz. of the entrant's beer, and on the right side the same amount of cups for the opposing entry number. Example: 20 voters, 20 two-ounce cups containing one oz. each of Entry #1 on the left, with 20 cups of the opposing Entry # 16 on the right, and both entries clearly marked at the table. The other table will be used to set up the next pair to face off in the round.
- A blackboard or similar setup, marked with the entry numbers, will be used to identify the randomized entries and then record the results of each round.
- Two members from each club will be used as pourers. One member of each club will be designated as a "lead judge" to oversee the competition and settle any disputes.
- Water and oyster crackers will be provided by the host to cleanse the palate between tastings.
- Voters will use their Smart Phones and the 2020 Mash Madness Play-in form set up in Google (available via the NIBS website) to place their votes in each round. Instructions on accessing and using the Play-in form will be provided on the day of the event.

### SEQUENCE OF PLAY:

- It is expected to take about 2 hours to complete the voting and award the prizes.
- Sheets for the contest to name the category of each of the 16 competition beers will be handed out to all eligible participants before the first pairing is set out for tasting.
- In the first round, Entry #1 will face off against Entry #16, then Entry #2 vs. Entry #15, etc. until all eight pairs of competing beers are tasted and voted upon using the Google electronic scoring. The four pourers will see that the 1 oz. beer samples are poured at each table, clearly marked, and will alternate pairs of beers between the left and right tables.

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- As the whole first round is completed but before its winners are announced, the pre-prepared bracket sheets with the entries numbered 1 through 16 will be passed out to all who paid to participate in the bracket side-bet competition.
- Since the voters would have tasted all of the beer in the first round, but would not yet know the winners, each voter would then pencil in his or her choices for the results of the first through the final round on their bracket sheets, just like in the NCAA tourney. One of the lead judges will collect the completed bracket sheets, score each round during the competition, and announce the winning scores.
- Following the completion of the brackets, the eight winners of the first round will compete in the second round, followed by the final four, and finally the championship round. The two runners-up in the final four will compete for third place prior to the championship round. All results will be marked on the blackboard.

### **BEER COMPETITION AWARDS:**

- The brewer of the overall winning beer entry in the bracket will be awarded the grand prize (prize determined by a joint meeting of the respective club competition committees; this year NIBS is responsible for providing the grand prize) and a first-place blue ribbon. Second place would get a red ribbon and gift certificate or similar monetary prize.
- The two losing entries in the Final Four will face off to determine the third-place winner, which will be awarded a white ribbon and lesser gift certificate or similar monetary prize. The runner-up competition for third place will be held just before the final two beers square off. Determination of third-place will not be part of the side-betting competition.

### **SIDE-BET BRACKET SCORING AND PRIZES:**

- The completed brackets filled out by the participants at the competition will be used to determine the split of the pool of money among the winners in the bracket betting. There will be no limit on the number of participants in the bracket competition. This self-funding competition will cost \$5.00 per participant, with one entry allowed. Entry fees will provide a first, second, and third place monetary prize.
- Bracket scoring will be as follows: one point will be awarded for each correct vote in the first round, two points for each correct choice in the second round, three points for each in the third, and 4 for picking the final correctly, with a max possible of 26 points. The total number of points for correct picks will determine the winners, with first, second, third place prizes awarded according to the highest number of points scored.
- Fifty percent of the bracket pool of money will go to the person with the highest number of points, with 35% to the second highest score, and 15% to third place. Example: if there are 20 participants and thus a prize pool of \$100, the person with the highest score would get \$50, second place would get \$35, and the participant with the third highest number of points would get \$15. In the event of tied winning scores, the tied individuals would share in the place winnings, i.e., two bracket competitors tied for the highest score would share in the \$50 first prize, with each getting \$25 in this example.

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### “NAME THAT BJCP BEER CATEGORY” SIDE CONTEST:

- In addition to the side-bet brackets, anyone tasting the competition beers and voting may participate in a side contest to name the BJCP Category of each of the 16 entries. The purpose of this side contest is to help educate brewers and other lovers of craft beer at the competition by making them more aware of the BJCP categories and styles.
- At the beginning of the competition and before the first pairing of beers is made available for tasting, an official score sheet with lines numbered 1 through 16 will be handed out to all of the tasters/voters. The back of the sheet will have a listing of all of the relevant BJCP Categories along with each of their associated styles for reference -- for example: “Category #1: Standard American Beer (American Light Lager, American Lager, Cream Ale, and American Wheat Beer are BJCP Styles in this Category). So for example if a side-contest participant identifies one of the competition beers in a slot of one of the pairings as a Cream Ale, he or she would write, “Standard American Beer” next to the corresponding slot on the front of the sheet. This would of course take place as the beers are tasted.
- The person in this side contest who correctly identifies the most Categories of the 16 beers in the competition will win a monetary prize in recognition of the achievement. If there should be a tie for the most correct answers, the winners will split the prize money.