

The 1st Asian Barista Championship

Rules & Regulations

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1. Conditions of Participation

1.1 Participants

1.1.1 National Qualifications

The Asia Barista Championship (ABC) is only open to qualified national champions in the participation countries within Asia. It is only open to one (1) competitor from each representing country.

1.1.2 Nationality

Competitors must hold a valid passport of the country they represent.

1.1.3 Exemption of participation

If a national champion is unable to participate in the ABC for any reason, the runner up from the national competition can replace the champion. This replacement must be approved by the ABC. A written request must be sent by the participating association in the country involved to the ABC Event Manager.

1.1.4 Expenses

The ABC is ONLY liable for the competitor's 2 – way flight tickets (International) and accommodation during the competition period.

1.2 Application

1.2.1 Registration Form

All competitors must download and complete the ABC Registration Form found on our official website: www.asiabaristachampionship.com and scan / email / fax / mail the registration form together with recent color photo, work history for the past 2 years and a scanned copy of their valid passport in the country that they are representing to the ABC Event Manager.

1.2.2 Submission Deadline

All competitors must submit their registration form with the necessary documents by 31st of January 2008.

1.3.3 Application Exemption

If any of the participating countries is unable to conduct their national barista competition before the cut off date requirements, they must then write in to the ABC Event Manager. The ABC event organizers will have the final decision to accept or reject late applications.

1.3 Obligations

1.3.1 Information

A. The Association/Other Body of the participating country are responsible for submitting all proper paperwork to the ABC Event Manager.

- B. The Association/Other Body are responsible for relaying any updated contact information or information relevant to the National Barista Competition.
- C. The ABC will not manage or take ownership in any coordination of the National Barista Championship.

1.3.2 National Champion

The Association/Other Body are responsible for identifying the correct National Champion and providing their current information.

2. The ABC Competition

One (1) Head Judge, four (4) Sensory Judges and two (2) Technical Judges will evaluate each participating competitor.

2.1 Performance – Beverage To Be Served

- A. Each competitor shall serve four Sensory Judges a single espresso, a single cappuccino and a single blended signature beverage of their choice making a total of twelve drinks within fifteen minutes.
- B. All drinks must be espresso based and entirely without alcohol.
- C. The order in which these twelve drinks are served is entirely up to the competitor's decision.
- D. The four drinks of each category must be identical in content and served at the same time.
- E. All four drinks within each category must be prepared using the same coffee.
- F. Competitors can prepare each category of drinks (i.e. the espressos, cappuccinos, and signature beverages) using different coffee.
- G. Competitors may produce as many drinks as they like during the competition. Only the drinks served to the judges will be evaluated.
- H. All Competitors must ONLY use Sponsors' products and machines such as Coffex™ Coffee, Greenfield's Milk, Da Vinci Gourmet® Syrup & Sauce, LaMarzocco Espresso Machine, Mahlkonig Grinder, Hamilton Beach blender, Cafetto Espresso Machine Cleaner and Purence Drinking Water for the competition. Failure to do so may result in an immediate disqualification from the competition.

2.2 Beverage Definition

2.2.1 Espresso

- A. An espresso is a one ounce/30 ml liquid including crema, +/- 5 ml is allowed.
- B. Only Coffex™ Coffee can be used.
- C. Each single espresso should be produced with an appropriate and consistent amount of ground coffee.
- D. Espresso shall be brewed at a temperature between 195 – 205° Fahrenheit/90.5 – 96° Celcius. (Refer to section 2.6 Espresso Machine)
- E. Machine brewing pressure will be 8.5 to 9.5 atmospheres. (Refer to section 2.6 Espresso Machine)

- F. Extraction time must be between 20 – 30 seconds.
- G. Espressos must be served in a 2 – 3 ounce/60 – 90 ml cup with a handle.
- H. Espressos should be served to the judges immediately complete with spoon, napkin, sugar and water.

*** The barista with the highest point score under this category will win the Best Espresso Trophy sponsored by Coffex™ Coffee.*

2.2.2 Cappuccino

- A. A cappuccino is a beverage of ratios, producing a harmonious balance of one (1) single shot of espresso, steamed milk and frothed milk.
- B. A traditional cappuccino is a 5 – 6 ounce/150 – 180 ml beverage.
- C. A cappuccino should be served in a 5 – 6 ounce/150 – 180 ml cup with a handle.
- D. Only Coffex™ Coffee & Greenfield's Milk can be used.
- D. Any additional toppings, spices or powdered flavorings are not allowed.

*** The barista with the highest point score in Latte Art under this category will win the Best Latte Art Trophy sponsored by Greenfield's Milk.*

2.2.3 Blended Signature Beverage

- A. Blended Signature Beverage is a freestyle espresso – based beverage crafted with the addition of Da Vinci Gourmet® Products during the competition time by the competitor.
- B. A distinct taste of espresso must be present and only Coffex™ Coffee can be used.
- C. Alcohol is not allowed.
- D. The judges must be able to drink the Blended Signature Beverage without the use of a spoon, etc.
- E. No ingredients or substances other than ground coffee may be placed in the portafilter.

*** The barista with the highest point score under this category will win the Best Blended Signature Beverage Trophy sponsored by Da Vinci Gourmet® and Hamilton Beach.*

2.2.3.1 Score Sheet Penalties

1. If alcohol is discovered as an ingredient in the Blended Signature Beverage, the blended signature beverage will receive zero points on all points available on the sensory score sheets in the Signature Beverage Category.
2. If ingredients or substances other than ground coffee are placed in a portafilter, the competitor's signature beverage will receive zero points on all points available on the technical and sensory score sheets in the Signature Beverage Category.

2.3 Performance Time

2.3.1 Start

Time is taken from the moment the competitor gives the start signal and presses the button on the remote control attached to the clock.

2.3.2 End

Time is stopped (ended) when the competitor presses the stop button on the remote control

attached to the clock or raises their hand and states Time. The Head Judge is responsible for recording the competitor's total time, in liaison with the timekeeper, on the Head Judge's Score sheet.

2.3.3 Communication

Competitors are not allowed to continue talking to the judges once their competition time has ended. Competitors may continue to talk to the Master of Ceremonies/Emcee.

2.4 Overtime Penalties

- A. If the competitor does not finish their presentation during the 15 minute competition period then, they are allowed to proceed until the presentation is completed.
- B. One point (minus 1) will be deducted for each second of overtime after 15 minutes. The maximum penalty is 60 points and this will be deducted from the competitors combined score sheet total.
- C. Any competitor whose performance period exceeds 16 minutes will be disqualified.

2.5 Coaching

Coaching from the sidelines is not allowed during the competition. Doing so may result in disqualification. The ABC strongly encourage cheering from the sidelines by supporters, the audience and other team members. However, they are not allowed to assist or advise the competitor in any way.

2.6 The Espresso Machine

LaMarzocco is the exclusive machine sponsor for ABC 2008. The provided espresso machine has a fixed technical configuration and must not be altered by the competitors. A technician will always be present in the competition area if something should occur with the ABC equipment.

2.6.1 Disqualification

Disqualification is automatic if a competitor changes or adjusts any of the following:

- A. The portafilter, filter basket and/or the gasket
- B. The temperature
- C. The pressure
- D. The steam wand tip/nozzle

The Head Judge and Technical Judges will verify that nothing has been changed.

2.6.2 Espresso Machine Configuration

The supplier/distributor of the sponsored espresso machines and grinders are responsible for the configuration of the ABC espresso machines and grinders. One month prior to the competition, all competitors will receive a detailed technical sheet describing the equipment specification to be used in the ABC.

2.7 Presentation Table

All drinks should be served at the presentation table where the four sensory judges are located. The judges' presentation table can be set during the competitor's preparation time but the

competitor is not allowed to pre – pour water into the judge glasses during the competitor's preparation time. After each set of drinks has been served and evaluated by the judges, an ABC assistant will clear the drinks from the judges' presentation table when the Head Judge gives the signal.

2.8 Trouble Shooting

2.8.1 Technical

- A. If a competitor feels that there is a technical problem with the espresso machine, the grinder or the blender, the competitor should raise his/her hand and call for a technical timeout to the Head Judge and the clock will be stopped.
- B. If the Head Judge agrees there is a technical problem that can be easily resolved, then the Head Judge will decide upon the appropriate amount of time for the competitor to be credited. Once the technician has fixed the problem then the competitor's time will resume.
- C. If the technical problem cannot be solved in a timely manner, the Head Judge will make the decision as to whether or not the competitor should wait to continue with his/her performance or stop the performance and start again at a reallocated time.
- D. If a competitor must stop their competition time, the competitor along with the Head Judge and the ABC Event Manager will reschedule the competitor to compete again at a later time.
- E. If it is determined that the technical issue is due to the competitor error, the Head Judge may determine that no additional time be given to the competitor, and the competition will resume without time being credited.

2.8.2 Accessories

- A. If during their performance time, a competitor has a problem such as breakage of glasses/cups or they have forgotten any other accessories or ingredients, a timeout will not be allowed.
- B. The competitor must approach the Head Judge who is then responsible to either assign a person or ask the competitor to retrieve a replacement while the competitor's time is still running.

2.8.3 Obstruction

- A. If any individual, such as an assistant, judge, audience member, or photographers are an obvious hindrance for a particular competitor, then competitor shall be given additional time. The Head Judge is responsible for overseeing this and will decide how much extra time should be accredited.
- B. If the judges table has not been cleaned after the previous set of drinks within a reasonable time, the competitor shall be credited for the delayed time. It is the Head Judge's responsibility to oversee this.

3. Competition Procedure

- A. The competition space will consist of a stage with three competition stations, numbered 1,

- 2 & 3.
- B. Each competitor will be assigned a station number and a start time.
 - C. Competitors will be assigned an ABC assistant to help deliver their equipment to the competition station.
 - D. Each competitor will be given 45 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments:
 1. 15 minutes Preparation time – Not evaluated
 2. 15 minutes Competition/Performance time – Evaluated
 3. 15 minutes Clean – Up time – Not evaluated

In addition to the 45 minutes, all competitors will be given one (1) hour practice prior to competition time.

The competition flow will follow the process outlined in the following chart:

Station No. 1	Station No. 2	Station No. 3
1st Barista (Machine No. 1)		
15 minutes preparation	2nd Barista (Machine No. 2)	
15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)	15 minutes preparation	3rd Barista (Machine No. 3)
15 minutes clean up	15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)	15 minutes preparation
4th Barista (Machine No. 1)	15 minutes clean up	15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)
15 minutes preparation	5th Barista (Machine No. 2)	15 minutes clean up
15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)	15 minutes preparation	6th Barista (Machine No. 3)
15 minutes clean up	15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)	15 minutes preparation
	15 minutes clean up	15 minutes competition (Judge Calibration)
		15 minutes clean up

3.1 ABC Provided Equipment and Supplies

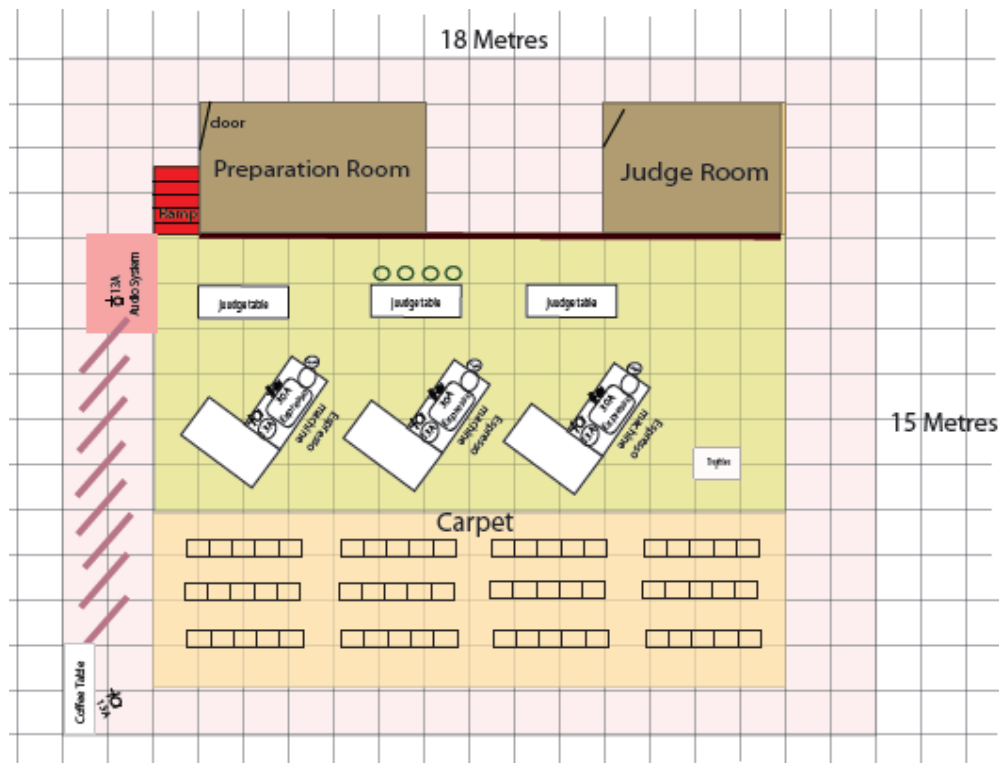
Each competition station will be equipped with the following:

- A. LaMarzocco GB 5, 3 group machine
- B. Malhkonig's Grinder, K30 Vario
- C. Hamilton Beach Blender Machine, HBH650CE
- D. Knock Box
- E. Ice Scoop
- F. Rubbish/Waste bin
- G. Waiters Cart (For use during preparation and clean – up time)

*** Greenfield's fresh milk and Purence Water will be available in the Competitors' Room.*

*** Competitor needs to request for the Coffee Blend of Coffex Coffee and flavor for Da Vinci Gourmet® Product 2 months before the competition date.*

3.1.1 Overview of the competition area



3.2 Preparation Time

3.2.1 Be On Time

Any competitor who is not on the site 15 minutes before the start of their 15 minutes of preparation time will be disqualified. (Minimum 30 minutes before preparation time starts.)

3.2.2 Grinder

Mahlkonig is the Exclusive Grinder Sponsor for ABC 2008. Competitors must only use the sponsor - provided grinder. No coffee beans may be placed in the hopper until the competitor's preparation time starts.

3.2.3 ABC Station Assistant

Each ABC station assistant will make sure grinder, blender, or any other electrical equipment is placed to the right or left of the espresso machine in accordance with the competitor's request. Only the assigned station assistant will be allowed to assist the competitor on stage with the waiter's cart. The station assistant will not help the competitor unload the waiter's cart or set up the station. The waiter's cart will not be allowed on stage during the performance time and will be taken out by the station assistant.

3.2.4 Preheated cups

All cups must be empty, clean and dry at the start of competition time.

3.2.5 Preparation end – time

Competitors will not be allowed to exceed the 15 minutes of preparation time. The timer will give the competitor a 10 minute, 5 minute, 3 minute, 1 minute and 30 seconds warning during their 15 minutes of preparation time. At exactly 15 minutes, the official preparation timekeeper will call time and ask the competitor to step away from the station.

3.3 Performance Time

Once the 15 minutes preparation time has elapsed and the judges are ready, the Master of Ceremonies/Emcee will introduce the competitor who will be interviewed in English. Competitors may have their own interpreter present or choose not to be interviewed.

The competition time will only be stopped on the competitor's final signal by raising their arm and stopping the timer clock. This is to make sure the timekeepers and the Head Judge get the exact total time.

3.4 Clean – Up Time

The competitors will clean their stations thoroughly after their performance time. The assigned ABC assistant will check the station after each clean up period and approve the stations cleanliness. Only after this approval then the competitor can leave the station. This will not be evaluated. However, if it is not satisfactory, the competitor will be asked to clean the required areas.

4. Judges

The ABC organizers set the standard to which all judges are required to adhere. Competitors are advised to thoroughly review the score sheets and the Judges' Manual to ensure that they are familiar with the criteria. All ABC documents may be downloaded from our website: www.asiabaristachampionship.com

4.1 Eligibility of Judges

4.1.1 Judges

- A. Only experienced judges are invited to judge in the Asia Barista Championship.
- B. If a judge is deemed as biased in any way towards a competitor or perceived by others to have a conflict of interest with one or several of the competitors then the particular judge may be exempted from judging.

4.2 Head Judge

In the ABC, there is always one appointed Head Judge who has the main oversight during the competition period.

- A. The Head Judge is the main overseer of the competition.
- B. The Head Judge is responsible for making sure that the judges are professionally evaluating the competitors according to the ABC standards and training guidelines.
- C. The Head Judge ensures that the judges fill out their score sheet clearly and accurately.
- D. The Head Judge is responsible for timekeepers and assistants in the competition area.

- E. The Head Judge makes certain that the barista has adequate working space.
- F. The Head Judge is responsible for making sure there are no obstructions during the competitor's performance time, including press photographers, camera crew, audience, volunteers and other judges.
- G. The Head Judge will evaluate both the competitor and the judges using the Head Judge's score sheet. The scores on this sheet do not count in the overall score total.
- H. The Head Judge will appoint one of the sensory judges to share each competitor's beverages with the head judge for further evaluation.
- I. The Head Judge will only taste the drinks after the Sensory Judge has completed their own evaluation.
- J. The Head Judge has the final authorization concerning critical points in the judge evaluation period.

4.3 Technical Judge

In the competition, 2 Technical Judges are present for each competitor and are positioned near to the competitor's working area. The total sum of the 2 Technical Judges are added together and divided by 2. This sum total is transferred to the 4 Sensory scoring sheets.

4.4 Judging Criteria

The judging criteria are based on the score sheets.

4.4.1 Competition Area

The competition area will be evaluated for cleanliness at the start and end of the performance/competition time by the 2 technical judges.

4.4.2 Taste Evaluation

Points will be awarded by the sensory judges for the taste of each individual drink based on all the criteria required on the sensory score sheet.

4.4.3 Beverage Presentation

Points will be awarded based upon the visual presentation of the drinks including cups, glasses and accessories, consistency of drinks, creativity and style of presentation.

4.4.4 Technical Skills

Points will be awarded based upon the competitor's technical knowledge and skill in the operating of the espresso machine and grinder.

4.4.5 Judges Total Impression

Points will be awarded based on the judges overall impression of the competitor taking into account their technical skills, taste of drinks, and personal and beverage presentation.

4.5 Post Competition

4.6.1 Official Scorekeeping

The appointed official scorekeeper is responsible for keeping all score confidential until the official announcement.

4.6.2 Equal Scores

The following will apply if the situation arises and there is a matching score between 2 or more competitors:

A review of all the involved competitors score sheets will determine the individual scores of sixes, fives, fours and so on. The competitor with most sixes, fives, fours etc will win over the other competitor (s).

4.6.3 Debriefing

- A. It is mandatory for all judges to be present and give each non – finalist competitor a debriefing after the competition finals are announced, if they so wish. This will be done at the end of the competition.
- B. The Organizers is responsible for scheduling the debriefing with the Event Manager.
- C. The five ABC finalists will not receive the debriefing until after the finals.

5. Protest and Appeals

All complaints and appeals have to be in a written document addressed to the organizers or the Event Manager, and should contain the following:

- A. Your full name and nationality
- B. A clear and specific statement of complaint
- C. Dates and time references
- D. The complainants view and required solution
- E. All individuals involved
- F. Complete contact detail/information

All written protests/appeals, which do not as a minimum include the subjects stated above, will not be considered. All protest/appeals and/or exemptions must be forwarded to the one of the ABC organizers or ABC Event Manager within 24 hours of the offending incident.

5.1 Competition related issues

5.1.1 Protests

If there is protests during/and/or post competition, they must be put in writing (see above) and delivered to the ABC Event Manager on site and/or via email. Based on the matter of the complaint, the ABC Event Manager is obligated to summon the involved parties and make sure that all parties involved are heard.

A representative from the organizers shall be present in the analysis and will make the final

decision/ruling. The Event Manager will give a reply on behalf of the ABC to the complainant in writing within a reasonable period of time.

5.2 Dishonest Behavior

If in the unlikely event that the Head Judge or any other ABC personnel discovers or suspects potential dishonest behavior by an ABC Judge during a competitor evaluation, then the following will apply:

- A. The Head Judge shall request the return of all the competitors score sheets from the official score keeper surrounding the suspicious evaluation.
- B. The Head Judge will call a meeting with the ABC Judge(s) concerned in addition to the Organizer's representative and evaluate the situation.
- C. The ABC representative will rule upon the matter in closed session.
- D. If the matter of dishonesty is extensive, the ABC Organizer has the power to rule that the ABC judge be excluded from judging.

6. Terms and Conditions

6.4 Liability Release

The Competitor shall be solely responsible and liable for (i) obtaining passports, visas and other personal documentation required for their participation in the Competition, (ii) obtaining adequate health insurance necessary to provide for and pay any medical costs that may be attendant as a result of any injury, (iii) obtaining travel insurance. ABC shall (i) not accept any responsibilities or liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by any company or people engaged in providing or performing any of the products or services involved in this competition, (ii) not accept any responsibilities or liability for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, natural disasters, accidents, or other such causes, and (iii) not accept any responsibilities or liability for any cancellation or disruption of travel arrangements, or any consequent additional expenses that may be incurred therefore.

6.5 ABC rights

ABC reserves the rights to manage the 2008 Asia Barista Championship Winner for its advertising, promotional initiatives and marketing programs during the Winner's reigning period.