



# **2016 World Cup Tasters Championship**

## **Official Rules and Regulations**

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Written and approved by the  
WCE Rules and Regulations Committee

# 2016 World Cup Tasters Championship Rules and regulations

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## **1.0 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

### **1.1 QUALIFICATIONS**

The World Cup Tasters Championship (WCTC) is open to qualified national champions as determined by a WCE sanctioned national championship produced by the relative WCE Licensed National Body. Only one (1) competitor may represent each nation. Licensed National Bodies may not submit a competitor to the World Cup Tasters Championship who was not the champion of a WCE sanctioned national championship in the preceding year.

### **AGE REQUIREMENT**

Competitors must be at least 18 years of age at the time of competing in any World Coffee Events (WCE) sanctioned event.

### **1.2 NATIONALITY**

Competitors must hold a valid passport from the country he or she represents or documentation substantiating 24 months of residency, employment or scholastic enrolment, some portion of which must have been within 12 months preceding the qualifying national competition. Competitors may only participate in one country per WCE sanctioned Competition per year. A WCE Competition Year is defined as the time period between the completion of one year's WCE Event and the completion of the next year's WCE Event.

### **1.3 MULTIPLE PASSPORTS**

In case of multiple passports, the contestant must choose one country and qualify through this respective sanctioned national championship.

### **1.4 SUBSTITUTIONS**

If a national champion is unable to participate in the World Cup Tasting Championship for any reason, the runners up from the national championship can replace the champion according to ranking order. The WCE Licensed National Body must send a written request to [info@worldcoffeeevents.org](mailto:info@worldcoffeeevents.org).

### **1.5 EXPENSES**

Licensed National Bodies are required to pay the champion's flight and hotel accommodations to the World Cup Tasters Championship for the purpose of representing their country for the duration of the competition. Above and beyond this, competitors are responsible for their own expenses related to the competition, including, but not limited to: *additional* travel and accommodation needs, supplies and ingredients, local transport, and additional personnel. The WCE is not liable for any of the competitor's expenses. If a competitor cannot afford these expenses, it is their responsibility to find a sponsor, or outside party to cover these expenses.

### **1.6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

WCE encourages any potential conflicts of interest to be declared at the soonest opportunity, certainly prior to the commencement of any competition by competitor, judge and/ or event organizer. This applies to both National WCE Sanctioned events as well as the World Competition. Failure to declare a potential conflict in advance of a sanctioned event could result in disqualification from events for an individual, or WCE removing endorsement for an event and its results that do not follow these guidelines.

### **1.7 EVENT MANAGEMENT**

No one who is directly involved with logistics or management of the competitions should be from a sponsoring company or have direct involvement with a competitor or be a coach of a competitor.

## **2.0 APPLICATION**

### **2.1 COMPETITOR REGISTRATION FORM**

Competitors must complete the WCTC Competitor Registration Form online at <http://www.worldcuptasters.org/> and email [info@worldcoffeeevents.org](mailto:info@worldcoffeeevents.org) a scanned copy of their valid passport or legal documentation of 24 months of employment or scholastic curriculum in the country they represent to the WCTC event manager at least six weeks prior to WCE Event. All approved national champions will receive a confirmation letter that will be sent to the competitor via email within two weeks of receipt of the online registration form and valid passport or legal documentation.

### **2.2 LAST DATE TO APPLY**

Competitors must submit the online competitor registration form and valid passport or legal documentation six weeks prior to the WCTC Championship. In the event the national competition is held less than six weeks prior to WCTC, national champions must submit the registration form and passport/documentation within 5 days of conclusion of their national competition. Failure to meet these requirements could result in exclusion from competing in the WCTC.

## **3.0 COMPETITOR QUESTIONS**

All competitors are responsible for comprehensive knowledge of current Rules & Regulations and score sheets. No exceptions or accommodations will be made for competitors who claim to not understand the Rules & Regulations or score sheets. All documents may be downloaded from the website. Questions can be directed to [info@worldcoffeeevents.org](mailto:info@worldcoffeeevents.org). Competitors are encouraged to ask questions prior to arriving at the championship. Competitors will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the official Competitors Meeting held prior to the start of the competition.

## 4.0 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Upon submitting a Competitor Registration Form, competitors acknowledge that they understand the following terms & conditions: (Please note that these terms and conditions include individual responsibilities and requirements of representation imposed on the winner of the WCTC.)

- A. The winner of the World Cup Tasting Championship (WCTC) is a representative of the World Coffee Events, Ltd., the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) and the Specialty Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE).
- B. Upon entry in the Cup Tasting Championship and in exchange for the opportunity to win, each competitor in the Cup Tasting undertakes that they will:
  - a. Permit the WCTC, WCE, SCAA and SCAE to use the competitor's name and image in any format without charge for the purpose of promotion of the WCTC, WCE, SCAA, or SCAE.
  - b. Without limiting the generality of clause (a), the formats referred to in clause (a) may include: photographic, video, print, Internet, or any electronic media.
  - c. Actively work to uphold the good reputation of the WCE, the SCAA, and the SCAE when fulfilling these terms and conditions.
  - d. Each competitor must read and abide by the Competitor Code of Conduct document found on the WCTC website.
  - e. The winner of the Cup Tasters Championship must read and abide by the Champion Code of Conduct found on the WCE website.

## 5.0 ENFORCEMENT OF RULES & REGULATIONS

The WCE will employ these Rules & Regulations throughout the competition. If a competitor violates one or more of these Rules & Regulations, they may be automatically disqualified from the competition, except when the Rules designate a specific enforcement or consequence. If a judge or competition organizer causes the violation of one or more of these Rules, a competitor may submit an appeal, according to the process detailed in the section "Competitor Protest and Appeals."

## 6.0 THE COMPETITION

The competition is organized as a number of triangular tests. In each triangular test, three cups of coffee are set up, two of which are identical. One is unique. The aim of the competition is for the participant to use their gustatory and olfactory senses to identify the odd cup out of the three. Note that the competitors are tested on their ability to distinguish different coffees, not to identify their quality, origin, etc.

During the competition eight triangular tests are placed before each competitor. The coffees selected for all eight tests will be the same for all competitors. The competitor who identifies the most "odd" cups from the eight sets will be declared the winner. In the case of a tie (i.e. when two or more competitors share the highest number of correctly identified triangulations) the competitor with the shortest completion time wins.

- A. All coffees should be roasted no longer than 14 days prior to the date of the competition. Coffees should be medium roasted to the same degree (between Agtron tile 55 and 70) and ground identically.
- B. Coffee should be prepared in a standard 1.8 litre (60.9 fl oz) drip filter brewer of a quality appropriate for the needs of the competition. The brewing temperature should be between 92-96 degrees Celsius (197.6-204.8 degrees Fahrenheit). The brewing cycle should be 4 to 6 minutes, and the temperature of the finished brew should be between 80-85 degrees Celsius (176.0 to 185.0 degrees Fahrenheit) and stored in an air-pot. The coffee may be prepared with a coffee to water ratio of 60 grams per litre. The drip brewer shall use standard tap water, provided it is of good quality without any detectable taints. The WCE event organizer will decide if it is necessary to use filter or purified water instead of tap water.
- C. Cups used for the triangulations must be between 125 ml to 250ml (4.25fl oz to 8.5fl oz). The volume of coffee in each cup must be between 75 ml to 150 ml (2.5fl oz to 5.0fl oz).
- D. In a national championship the use of disposable cups is acceptable.
- E. Eight sets of triangulations will be placed in front of each competitor at the same time. The sets must be identical, but should not be placed in the same order for each competitor.
- F. The timekeeper will signal when competitors may begin triangulating. All competitors within each set will begin at the same time. The round is over when all competitors have stepped back from the table and signalled that they are finished OR after a maximum of eight (8) minutes, whichever occurs first. The timekeeper will signal when half the time has elapsed and each minute thereafter.
- G. Each competitor should stand clear of the table prior to the start of competing.
- H. Competitors must taste at least 2 of the three cups to determine the odd one out.
- I. Competitors must identify the odd cup by pushing it over the line into a separate box from the other cups in the triangulation so that it is completely clear of its previous position.
- J. The winner is the competitor who correctly identifies the most odd cups. In the event of a tie, the competitor who completed the triangulations in the shortest amount of time will be declared the winner.
- K. At no time is a competitor permitted to access the back of stage or coffee preparation space. Any competitor found breaching this rule can be disqualified at the discretion of the event organisers.

- L. Competitors must bring their own spoon for tasting the coffees. Competitors may bring their own water (1 container only) and spit cup but these items must not be on the table during competition.

## **7.0 COMPETITION PROCEDURE**

- A. The competition space will consist of a stage with four competition tables, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- B. The competition will consist of three competition rounds: round one, semi-finals (8 competitors), and finals (4 competitors), with the top scoring competitors continuing on to the following round. A quarter finals round may be included between round one and the semi-finals round at the discretion of the event organisers.
- C. The WCTC reserves the right to schedule more than one competition round in a single day (i.e. quarter finals, semi-finals and finals may be held on the same day).
- D. The competitor's scores from each round will not carry over to the next round.
- E. Each competitor will be given eight (8) minutes to assess the eight triangulations.
- M. When cups are selected they should be pushed across the table. If competitors lift a cup **off** the table, it is determined to be their final selection and must be moved across the line into the separate box. Once the cup has been pushed over the line, the cup must not be moved again.
- F. Running order for the competition will be drawn randomly for each round
- G. At the conclusion of the semi-finals round there will be a ceremony where finalists are announced and all competitors will be acknowledged. All competitors are required to attend this ceremony.
- H. After the final round there will be a brief awards ceremony wherein finalists will receive their awards.

## **8.0 COMPETITOR INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO COMPETITION TIME**

### **8.1 COMPETITORS' ORIENTATION MEETING**

Prior to the start of the WCTC a Competitors' Orientation Meeting will take place. This meeting is mandatory for all competitors. During this meeting, the WCTC stage manager will make announcements, explain the competition flow and cover the competition schedule. This will be an opportunity for competitors to ask questions to the WCTC event manager.

### **8.2 BE ON TIME**

Competitors should be in the preparation/practice room a minimum of 30 minutes prior to his/her competition time. Any competitor who is not onsite at the start of his/her competition time may be disqualified.

## **9.0 COMPETITION TIME**

### **9.1 INTRODUCTION BY THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Before the 8-minute competition time has started and the cups are ready, the Master of Ceremonies will introduce the competitor.

### **9.2 INTERPRETER**

Competitors may bring their own interpreter. When speaking to the competitor the interpreter is only allowed to translate what the emcee has said. When a competitor speaks the interpreter is only allowed to translate exactly what the competitor has said.

### **9.3 PRIOR TO COMPETITION TIME**

All competitors must stand a minimum of one (1) meter behind the competition table and not approach the table until their time has started.

### **9.4 BEGIN COMPETITION TIME**

The Master of Ceremonies will ask the competitors if all four cuppers are ready to begin. The designated competition timekeeper will begin a stopwatch the moment the Master of Ceremonies calls start. Tracking time elapsed during the 8-minute competition time is the responsibility of the competitor, though he/she may ask for a time check at any point. The competition timekeeper will give the competitor a four (4) minute, three (3) minute, two (2) minute, one (1) minute, and thirty (30) second warning during the 8 minutes of competition time. The timekeeper is required to give these warnings as they occur.

### **9.5 END COMPETITION TIME**

Competition time will be stopped when the competitor raises his/her hand and calls "time." The competitor must make a clear and audible signal to the official timekeeper and head judge. The maximum timeframe for the competition is 8 minutes.

## **10.0 SCOREKEEPING**

### **10.1 WCTC OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPING**

The WCTC official scorekeepers are responsible for keeping all scores. Scores are also recorded on a whiteboard on stage or on a live screen.

## 10.2 TIED SCORES

If the tied competitors have the same number of correct triangulations, the competitor who completed their triangulations in the shortest time will be declared the winner. In the case where two or more competitors have achieved a tied score in the same time, those competitors involved will proceed to the next round.

## 10.3 SCORECARD

Recorded scores for WCTC may be tracked on a whiteboard or live screen on stage.

# 11.0 COMPETITOR PROTEST AND APPEALS

## 11.1 COMPETITOR-RELATED ISSUES

### 11.1.1 Protest

If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding the WCTC during the competition, the competitor should contact the WCE event organizer. The event organizer will then determine whether the issue can be resolved on-site at the Championship or whether the issue will require a written appeal following the WCTC.

If the event organizer decides that the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site at the WCTC, the event organizer will contact the involved party or parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor's issue and/or protest will be discussed and a decision will be made jointly, on-site, by the WCTC event organizer designated onsite representative of the WCE Competition Operations Committee. The WCTC event organizer will inform the competitor of the decision.

### 11.1.2 Appeal

If a competitor has a complaint that cannot be resolved on-site or the competitor wishes to appeal a decision made on-site, the event manager will ask the competitor to submit his/her formal complaint and/or appeal in writing to the WCE Competition Operations Committee. All decisions by the WCE Competition Operations Committee are final.

The complaint and/or appeal letter must include the following:

- 1) Competitor name
- 2) Date
- 3) A clear and concise statement of the complaint
- 4) Date and time references (if applicable)
- 5) Competitor's comments and suggested solution
- 6) Party/Parties involved
- 7) Competitor's contact information

Any written complaints and/or appeals that do not include this information will not be considered. Competitors should submit his/her written complaint and/or appeal to the WCE event manager via email to [info@worldcoffeeevents.org](mailto:info@worldcoffeeevents.org) within 24 hours of the offending incident or the decision given.

### 11.1.3 Appeals review by the WCE Advisory Board

The WCE Advisory Board will review written complaints and appeals within 30 days of receipt. The WCE Advisory Board Chair will contact the competitor in writing via email with the final decision.

# 12.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information to assist with example ratios, equipment, coffees and other information needed to run the championship is available on request. Please contact [info@worldcoffeeevents.org](mailto:info@worldcoffeeevents.org).