



**2011 Cup Tasting Championship
Official Rules and Regulations**

VERSION: 2011.1.0

Written and approved by the WCE
Rules and Regulations Committee

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1.0 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

1.1 PARTICIPANTS

1.1.1 Nationality

Competitors must hold a valid passport of the country they represent or have 24 months of documented employment or scholastic curriculum in the country they represent. If participation is based on the 24 months of documented employment or scholastic curriculum rather than passport, a portion of this must have been in the previous 12 months prior to national competition. Competitors can only compete to represent one country per WCTC Competition Year.

1.1.2 Multiple Passports

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

1.1.3 Exemption of Participation

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.

1.1.4 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.

1.2 APPLICATION

1.2.1 Competitor Registration Form

Competitors must complete the WCTC Competitor Registration Form online at www.worldcuptasters.org and email 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 the WCTC 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.

1.2.2 Last Date to Apply

Competitors must submit the online competitor registration form and valid passport or legal documentation six weeks prior to the WCTC event. 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.

1.3 COMPETITOR QUESTIONS

All competitors are responsible for comprehensive knowledge of current rules and regulations and score sheets. No exceptions or accommodations will be made for competitors who claim to not understand the rules and regulations or score sheets. All documents may be downloaded from the website, <http://www.worldcuptasters.org/>. Questions can be directed to 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.

1.4 TERMS & 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. (WCE), the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) and the Specialty Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE).
- B. Upon entry in the World Cup Tasting Championship and in exchange for the opportunity to win, each competitor in the WCTC undertakes that they will:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Without limiting the generality of clause (i), the formats referred to in clause (i) may include: photographic, video, print, Internet, or any electronic media.
 - iii. Actively work to uphold the good reputation of the WCE, the SCAA, and the SCAE when fulfilling these terms and conditions.
- C. Each competitor must read and abide by the Competitor Code of Conduct document found on the WCTC website.
- D. The winner of the Cup Tasting must read and abide by the Champion Code of Conduct found on the WCTC website.

2.0 THE COMPETITION

The competition is organized as a number of triangular tests. Three cups of coffee are set up, two of which are identical. The aim of the competition is for the participant to identify the odd cup out of the three. This can be achieved any way the competitor prefers. The competition tests the competitor's ability to discriminate between coffees, not to identify them.

During the competition eight triangular tests are placed before each competitor. The coffees selected for all eight tests will be the same for all cuppers. The competitor who singles out the most odd cups from the eight sets becomes the winner. If there is a tie, when more than one competitor has the same score, then the competitor that completed the task in the shortest time wins.

- A. All coffees should be medium roasted to the same degree and color of roast and ground identically.
- B. Coffee should be prepared in a standard 1.8 liter (60.9fl oz.) good-quality drip filter brewer with a brewing temperature 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 with a brew strength of 60grams/liter. The drip brewer shall use standard tap water as long as it is of good quality without any detectable taints.
- 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 competing. Each set of competitors will start the testing at the same time. The round is over when all competitors have stepped back from the table and signaled 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 may use any sense (smell, taste, sight, etc.) to identify the odd cup in the triangulation, including their own tasting spoon.
- I. Competitors must identify the odd cup by pushing it distinctly apart from the other cups in the triangulation so that it is completely clear of its previous position. The winner is the competitor who identifies the most correct number of odd cups. In the event of a tie, the competitor who completed the task in the shortest amount of time will be declared the winner.

3.0 COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- A. The competition space will consist of a stage with three competition tables numbered 1, 2, and 3.
- B. The competition will consist of three competition rounds: round one, semi-finals (8 competitors), and finals (4 competitors) with the top scoring competitors in each round continuing on to the following round. The WCTC reserves the right to schedule more than one competition round in a single day (i.e. Semi Finals and Finals may be held on the same day). The competitor's scores from each round will not carry over to the next round.
- C. Each competitor will be given eight (8) minutes to assess the odd cups out of eight triangulations.
- D. At the conclusion of the first round, there will be a ceremony where semifinalists are announced and all competitors will be acknowledged. All competitors are required to attend this ceremony.
- E. After the final round there will be an awards ceremony where finalists will be awarded fourth through first place.

4.0 COMPETITOR INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO PREPARATION TIME

4.1 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 event manager will make announcements, explain the competition flow and cover the competition schedule. This will be an opportunity for competitors to ask questions and/or voice concerns to the WCTC event manager.

4.2 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.

5.0 COMPETITION TIME

5.1 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.

5.2 BEGIN COMPETITION TIME

The Master of Ceremonies will ask the competitor if all three 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 minute, three minute, two minute, one minute, and thirty second warning during the 8 minutes of competition time. The timekeeper is required to give these warnings as they happen.

5.3 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.

The maximum timeframe for the competition is 8 minutes.

6.0 SCOREKEEPING

6.1 OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPING

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

6.2 TIED SCORES

If the competitors have the same number of correct triangulations the competitor who finished in the shortest amount of time will be declared the winner.

7.0 COMPETITOR PROTEST AND APPEALS

7.1 COMPETITOR-RELATED ISSUES

7.1.1 Protest

If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding the WCTC during the competition, the competitor should contact the event manager. The event manager 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 manager decides that the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site at the WCTC, the event manager 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 event manager and the Chairs of the Training, Certification, and Rules Committees. The WCTC event manager will inform the competitor of the decision.

7.1.2 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 Board of Directors. The decision by the WCE Board of Directors is 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 WCTC event manager via email to info@worldcoffeeevents.org within 24 hours of the offending incident or the decision given.

7.1.3 Appeals Reviewed by the Board of Directors

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

8.0 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.