



2019 World Cup Tasters Championship Official Rules and Regulations

VERSION 2019.01

Written and approved by the WCE
Rules and Regulations Committee

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1. ORGANIZATION

The World Cup Tasters Championship (WCTC) is a program of World Coffee Events, LTD (WCE).

1.1. RIGHTS

All intellectual property related to the World Cup Tasters Championship, including these Official Rules and Regulations and the format of the competition, are the property of World Coffee Events, LTD. No part of this document may be used or reproduced without the expressed permission of World Coffee Events, LTD.

2. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

2.1. PARTICIPANTS

2.1.1. National Champions and Substitutions

A National Champion is defined as the competitor who wins their National Body Championship. This competitor has won the right to compete in that year's World Championship, or to defer candidacy to the following year should they be unable to compete in the year they qualify for the World Championships, for an eligible reason (see DC Policy).

If a National Champion successfully applies for Deferred Candidacy, they retain their title as National Champion, and may compete in the World Championships the following year. Once the National Champion has deferred their candidacy, the licensed National Body may designate an alternate competitor from its national competition in descending order of succession, beginning with its second-place finisher. In this case, the competitor who goes to the World Championships will hold the title of National Competitor. This National Competitor will be eligible to represent their coffee community by participating in the World Coffee Championships, including being eligible to win the title of World Coffee Champion, but they will not have the title of National Champion for that year.

If a National Champion is not eligible for deferral, and elects not to go to the World Championships, the title of National Champion will transfer to the successive competitor.

All National Champions who do not compete in the worlds, for any reason, are required to give WCE notice themselves, via info@worldcoffeeevents.org to ensure clarity. Requests for any substitutions (National Body Representative Competitor) must be also received in writing from the National Body at info@worldcoffeeevents.org and approved by its Managing Director prior to competition.

2.1.2. Age Requirement

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

2.1.3. Nationality

Competitors must hold a valid passport from the place they represent 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 for one sanctioned National Body per WCE Competition year. A competition year is relative to the World Championships for which a National Body event is qualifying a competitor to compete. (e.g. if the competitor is competing in any NB event that would qualify them for a 2019 World Championship, they must compete for that NB exclusively in any NB event that is a qualifier for any 2019 World Coffee Championship.)

2.1.4. Multiple Passports

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

2.1.5. Judging and Conflict of Interest

Competitors may not judge in any sanctioned WCTC competition (world, national, regional), including their own, prior to the conclusion of that competition year's WCTC event. Judges may not compete in any sanctioned WCTC competition (world, national or regional), including their own, prior to the conclusion of that year's WCTC Event.

Baristas who participate in judge calibrations as a calibration barista may not compete in any sanctioned WCTC competition (world, national, regional) prior to the conclusion of that year's WCTC event. WCE encourages any potential conflicts of interest to be declared at the earliest 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. Questions regarding conflicts of interest, or clarification of the above policy should be directed to info@worldcoffeeeevents.org.

Competitors may not select or endorse judges within their national competition. Competitors who are involved in the management of their national competition should declare their position via email to WCE outlining their areas of involvement. This does not necessarily exclude or effect the competitors' engagement, however non-disclosure most likely will.

2.1.6. Expenses

Licensed National Bodies are required to pay the National Champion's flight and hotel accommodations for the WCTC for the purpose of representing their National Body 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, local transport, and additional personnel. The WCTC 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.

2.2. ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The WCE will employ these rules and regulations throughout the competition. If a competitor violates one or more of these rules and 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 per the process detailed in the section “Competitor Protest and Appeals”.

2.3. APPLICATION

2.3.1. Competitor Registration Form

Competitors must complete the WCTC Competitor Registration Form online at <http://www.worldcuptasters.org> *no less than six weeks prior to the WCTC event*. This form includes a space to upload a scanned copy of the required valid passport or other accepted credentials (as described in Section 2.1.3. “Nationality”). Approved National Champions will receive confirmation by email in approximately two weeks after receipt of all required registration documentation.

2.3.2. Final Date to Apply

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

2.4. COMPETITOR QUESTIONS

All competitors are responsible for comprehensive knowledge of the current WCTC Rules and Regulations document and scoresheets. No exceptions or accommodations will be made for competitors who claim to not understand the WCTC Rules & Regulations or scoresheets. All WCTC documents may be downloaded from the WCTC website. Questions can be directed to info@worldcoffeeeevents.org. Competitors are encouraged to ask questions prior to arriving at the WCTC. Competitors will also have the opportunity to ask questions during the official competitors meeting held prior to the start of the competition.

2.5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

- 1) The winner of the World Cup Tasters Championship (WCTC) is a representative of World Coffee Events Ltd., and the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA).
 - i) Upon entry in the WCTC and in exchange for the opportunity to win, each competitor in the WCTC undertakes that they will:

- ii) Permit the WCE and SCA to use the competitor's name and image in any format without charge, for the purpose of promoting WCTC, WCE, and SCA.
 - iii) Without limiting the generality of clause (ii), the formats referred to in clause (ii) may include photographic, video, print, internet, or any electronic media.
- 2) Actively work to uphold the good reputation of the WCTC, WCE, and SCA when fulfilling these terms and conditions.
 - 3) Each competitor must read and abide by the Competitor Code of Conduct document found on the WCTC and WCE websites.
 - 4) The winner of the WCTC must read and abide by the Champion Code of Conduct found on the WCTC and WCE website.

3. COMPETITION

3.1. COMPETITOR REGISTRATION FORM

Competitors must complete the WCTC competitor registration form online (<http://www.worldcuptasters.org/>) and email WCE (info@worldcoffeeeevents.org) a scanned copy of their valid passport or legal documentation of 2 months of employment or scholastic curriculum in the location they represent to the WCTC event manager at least 6 weeks prior to the 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.

3.2. LAST DATE TO APPLY

Competitors must submit the online competitor registration form and valid passport or legal documentation 6 weeks prior to the WCTC. In the event the national competition is held less than 6 weeks prior to the WCTC, national champions must submit the registration form and passport/documentation within 5 days of concluding the national competition. Failure to meet these requirements could result in exclusion from the WCTC.

4. COMPETITOR QUESTIONS

All competitors are responsible for comprehensive knowledge of current rules and regulations and scoresheets. No exceptions or accommodations will be made for competitors who claim to not understand the rules and regulations or scoresheets. All documents may be downloaded from the WCE website. Questions can be directed to info@worldcoffeeeevents.org. Competitors are encouraged to ask questions prior to arriving at the WCTC. Competitors will also have an opportunity to ask questions during the official competitor's orientation meeting held prior to the start of the competition.

5. ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The WCE will employ these rules and regulations throughout the competition. If a competitor violates one or more of these rules and regulations, they may be automatically disqualified from the competition, except when the rules designate a specific enforcement or consequence. If a judge or competition organiser 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. THE COMPETITION

The competition is organised as a number of triangular tests. In each triangular test, three cups of coffee are set up, two of which are identical, and one is unique. The aim of the competition is for the participant to use their gustatory and olfactory sense 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, process, origin, etc.

During the competition, eight triangular tests are placed before each competitor. The coffees are selected for all eight tests will be the same for all cuppers. 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. 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 4-6 minutes, and the temperature of the finished brew should be between 80-85 degrees Celsius (176.0-185.0 degrees Fahrenheit) and stored in a suitable container. 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 organiser 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 125-250ml (4.25-8.5 fl oz). The volume of coffee in each cup must be between 75-150ml (2.5-5.0 fl 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 two 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 highest number of 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 use the sponsor supplies where provided. Sponsor supplies include, but are not limited to, spit cup and/or water container.
- M. Competitors must bring their own spoon for tasting the coffees. Competitors are allowed

to bring their own water container and/or spit cup (1 container each, no larger size than 1L), only in the event that no sponsored supplies provided by WCE.

- a. Only the competitor's water container may rest on the competition table.
- b. Competitors spit cup must be held by competitors. There will be a bucket beneath the table should the competitor need to dump the contents of their spit cup.
- c. If competitors bring their own spit cups and water containers that contain logos, they must be approved by WCE in advance of competition.

7. 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 (e.g. quarter finals, semi-finals and finals may be held all 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.
- F. 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 in to the separate box. Once the cup has been pushed over the line, the cup must not be moved again.
- G. Running order for the competition will be drawn randomly for each round.
- H. 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.
- I. After the final round there will be a brief awards ceremony where finalists will receive their awards.

8. COMPETITOR INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO COMPETITION TIME

8.1 COMPETITORS ORIENTATION MEETING

Prior to the start of the WCTC a competitor's 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 discuss 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 stage area a minimum of 30 minutes before their competition round. Any competitor who is not onsite at the start of their competition round may be disqualified.

9. 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 metre 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 the competitors are ready to begin. The designated competition timekeeper will begin a stopwatch the moment the master of ceremonies calls to start. Tracking time elapsed during the 8-minute competition time is the responsibility of the competitor, though they 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. 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 amount of time, those competitors involved will proceed to the next round.

10.3 SCORECARD

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

11. 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 organiser. The event organiser will then determine whether the issue can be resolved on-site during the competition or whether the issue will require a written appeal following the competition.

If the event organiser decides that the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site at the WCTC, the event organiser will contact the involved party or parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor issue and/or protest will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site, by the WCTC event organiser and the designated onsite representative of the WCE competitions operations committee. The WCTC event organiser will inform the competitor of the final 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 their formal complaint and/or appeal in writing to the WCE competitions operations committee. All decisions made by the WCE competitions 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) Competitors comments and suggested solution
- 6) Party/parties involved
- 7) Competitors contact information

Any written complaints and/or appeals that do not include all of this information will not be considered. Competitors should submit their written complaint and/or appeal to the WCE event manager via email (info@worldcoffeeeevents.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. 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@worldcoffeeeevents.org.