

THE BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL **FOOD, BEVERAGE & HOSPITALITY**  
EXHIBITION IN SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi  2024   
**HOREOA**   
Hospitality Salon Culinaire | Saudi Barista Competition | Mocktail Competition **JEDDAH**

**5-7 FEBRUARY 2024**

**JEDDAH SUPERDOME  
SAUDI ARABIA**



Saudi  
**Barista**   
COMPETITION

STRATEGIC PARTNER

هيئة فنون الطهي  
Culinary Arts Commission



**PARTICIPANT'S MANUAL**

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# INTRODUCTION



Dear Participants,

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we are delighted to welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of "Saudi Barista Competition" during SAUDI HORECA Jeddah 2024. This manual gives you some useful information about the organization of the event.

Should you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact:

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+966 920 003 361 ext 119 or by email on  
[barista@saudihoreca.com](mailto:barista@saudihoreca.com)

Give it your best; it's nice to have you on stage with the winners.

Good luck,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping horizontal and diagonal strokes.

**Jad Taktak.**  
CEO, SEMARK Group

# JURY MEMBERS



**Fahad Althubyani**

Key Account Manager in Saudi  
Coffee Company, Q grader and World  
Coffee Events Judge  
**KSA**



**Victor Delpierre**

Barista and Mixologist, CIGS World  
Champion and Consultant in the  
Gastronomy Sector  
**France**



**Ahmed Kojok**

Authorized SCA Trainer and  
Q-grader  
**KSA**



**Stavros Lamprinidis**

AST SCA Trainer, SCA Coffee  
Diploma, WCE WCC Certified Judge  
**Greece**



**Antonio Orria**

CBC Expert at Simonelli Group  
**UAE**



**Valentin Susnea**

HORECA Operations Manager at  
Crown Muscat International and SCA  
Sensory  
**Oman**

# SPONSORS

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BARISTA SPONSORS



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# GENERAL INFORMATION

- The organizers reserve the right to remove, change or add to the rules and regulations.
- The organizers reserve all rights to the recipes used and photographs taken during the event.
- The organizers are not responsible for any damage or loss to competitors' exhibited items, equipment, and utensils or personal belongings.
- All participants must register their name and the time of arrival. Participants who fail to do so will be considered as a no show.
- Competitors who are not present at the appointed time and place of the competition will be considered as no-shows.
- Any cancellation after 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 will not be refundable.
- During the competition participants must wear their badges on the side where their number is written. No name or establishment logo must be visible to the judges.
- Each participant must bring his/her drink recipe printed, and distribute it to the jury before the start of the competition

## Competition schedule

The schedule will be sent 7 days prior to the event.

Your staff, delegation, and supporters are welcome at the exhibition.

In order to attend, they must be from the field of hospitality and are required to register online:

### How does the pre-registration system work for SAUDI HORECA Jeddah 2024?

We invite you to log on to [www.saudihoreca.com](http://www.saudihoreca.com) to get your online badge.

## P.S: COACHING

Instructions or 'coaching' may not be provided to a competitor during the time of his or her competition and may result in a penalty of disqualification. The organizer encourages audience participation and enthusiastic fan support that does not interfere with competition. Please note: coaches, supporters, friends, or family members are not allowed on stage while the competition is in progress, otherwise the competitor is subject to disqualification by the presiding head judge.

## TECHNICAL ISSUES

**A.** Competitors may raise their hand and declare a "technical time out" in the event that they believe there is a technical problem with any of the following equipment provided:

- i. The espresso machine (including power, steam pressure, control system malfunction, lack of water or drain malfunction)
- ii. The grinder
- iii. Any additional electrical equipment (excluding the competition clock)
- iv. The audio visual equipment (such as the competitor's music or microphone)

Preparation or competition time will be paused by the stage manager (during preparation time) or for the head judge (during competition time). The official timekeeper will make note of time when "technical time out" is called. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure the timekeeper is aware of making note of "technical time out" being called.

**B.** If the event manager/head judge agrees there is a technical problem that can be easily resolved, they will decide the appropriate amount of time for the competitor to be credited. Once the technician has fixed the problem, the competitor's time will resume.

**C.** If the technical problem cannot be solved in a timely manner, the event manager/head judge will make the decision whether or not the competitor should wait to continue his/her performance or stop the performance and start again at a reallocated time.

**D.** If a competitor must stop his/her competition time, the competitor, along with the head judge and event manager, will reschedule the competitor to compete in full again at a later time.

**E.** If it is determined that the technical issue is due to competitor error or the competitor's personal equipment, the head judge may determine that no additional time will be given to the competitor, and the preparation or competition time will resume without time being credited.

**F.** No time credit will be issued for technical issues caused by improper use; therefore it is the responsibility of all competitors to understand and follow the correct use of all competition equipment.

**G.** A technical time out for inconsistency or variation between group heads requiring adjustment may only be declared during preparation time.

## DISQUALIFICATION

Competitors may not change, adjust or replace any element, setting, or component of the espresso machine. Any changes or adjustments made may be grounds for disqualification (i.e. the portafilters, insert baskets, temperature, pressure, steam and tips, etc.) Any damage to the competition equipment due to misuse or abuse is grounds for disqualification at the discretion of the presiding head judge.

# THE COMPETITION SUMMARY

- A.** The Barista competitor performances will be evaluated by three types of judges: sensory, technical, and head.
- B.** Competitors will serve one beverage from all three categories of drinks (espresso, milk beverage, signature drink) to each of the four sensory judges, for a total of twelve drinks, during a period of fifteen minutes. The head judge may drink from any beverage served to the sensory judges.
- C.** The competitor decides the order in which the drink categories are served; however, any category of drinks must be completed (e.g. all four single espressos are served) before a competitor may serve another category of drink, otherwise he/she will be disqualified. Preparation and service of signature beverage elements are allowed at any time during the competition time.
- D.** Within each category (espresso, milk beverage and signature drink), drinks may be served in any combination to judges (i.e. one at a time, two at a time, or all three simultaneously). Sensory judges will begin evaluating his/her drink as soon as it is served.
- E.** All four drinks within each category must be prepared using the same coffee; however, the coffee used may change between categories. The 4 drinks of each category must contain the same ingredients and follow the same recipe as each other. Deliberately preparing and serving varied drinks within a category will result in a score of zero in "taste balance" for those drinks that deviate in recipe from the beverage that is served first.
- F.** Competitors may produce as many drinks as they choose during the competition; however, only drinks served to the sensory judges will be evaluated.
- G.** *A meeting before we start the competition on the first day will take place for all the participants with the judges. The competitor that doesn't come to the meeting is considered as disqualified.*

## COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- A.** The competition space will consist of a stage.
- B.** Each competitor will be assigned a start time.
- C.** Each competitor will be given 44 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments:
  - 7 minutes Table Set Time
  - 15 minutes Preparation Time
  - 15 minutes Competition/Performance Time
  - 7 minutes Clean-Up Time
- D.** The competition will consist of two rounds: round one (all competitors) and final round with the highest scoring points.
- E.** At the conclusion of the first round, there will be a ceremony where finalists are announced and all competitors will be acknowledged. All competitors are required to attend this ceremony.

## BEVERAGE DEFINITIONS

### Espresso

- A.** Espresso is a 1 fl. oz. beverage (30ml +/- 5ml) made from ground coffee, poured from one side of a double portafilter in one continuous extraction.
- B.** Coffee is the accumulation of roasted product of the seed of the fruit of a plant of the genus *Coffea*.
- C.** Coffee may not have any additives, flavorings, colorings, perfumes, aromatic substances, liquids, powders, etc. of any kind added at any point between the time the coffee is picked (as cherry) to when it is extracted into beverage. Substances utilized during growing, cultivation, and primary processing of the coffee are permitted (fertilizers, etc.)
- D.** Whole bean coffee may be a blend, single-region, single-country, single-farm, etc.
- E.** All judges must be served a full espresso. If the shot does not comply with the espresso definition, then taste and/or tactile scores will reflect the resulting sensory experience. Espresso may be prepared with various amounts of coffee.
- F.** Espresso will be brewed at a temperature between 90.5-96 degrees Celsius (195-205 degrees Fahrenheit).
- G.** The espresso machine brewing pressure will be set between 8.5 and 9.5 bar.
- H.** Extraction times between two pairs of espresso extractions must be within a three second variance, otherwise a "no" will be given for "extraction time." A 20-30 second extraction time is recommended, but not mandatory.



- I.** Crema should be present when espresso is served, with no break in coverage.
- J.** Espresso must be served in a 60-90 ml vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to: vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely, judges unable to execute espresso evaluation protocol. Otherwise a “no” will be given for “functional and correct espresso vessel used.”
- K.** Espresso must be served to the judges with an appropriate spoon, napkin and unflavored water, otherwise the competitor will receive a reduced score in “attention to detail.”
- L.** Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the espresso will receive zero points on all scores available on the technical and sensory score sheets in the espresso category.

## **Milk Beverage**

- A.** A milk beverage is a combination of a single shot of espresso and steamed cow’s milk that should produce a harmonious balance of rich, sweet milk and espresso and is less than 240ml in volume.
- B.** Milk beverages may be served with latte art or with a central circle of white milk. Latte art expression may take any pattern the competitor chooses.
- C.** Milk beverages must be served in a vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to: vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely. Otherwise a “no” will be given for “functional vessel used.”
- D.** Additional toppings, including but not limited to sugar, spices or powdered flavorings are not allowed. If used, the competitor will receive zero points in the “taste balance” category.
- E.** Milk beverages must be served to the judges with a napkin and unflavored water, otherwise the competitor will receive a reduced score in “attention to detail.”
- F.** Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the milk beverage will receive zero points on all scores available on the technical and sensory score sheets in the milk beverage category.

## **Signature Beverage**

- A.** The signature beverage demonstrates a competitor’s creativity and skill to create an appealing and individual espresso focused beverage.
- B.** The signature beverage should be a liquid beverage; the judges must be able to drink it. Food may accompany the beverage, but only the beverage item will be evaluated by sensory judges.
- C.** Each of the 4 signature beverages must contain a minimum of one espresso shot, otherwise the competitor will receive a score of 0 for “taste balance” on the sensory score sheets in the signature beverage category for that corresponding beverage.
- D.** Espresso used in the signature beverage must be prepared during the competitor’s performance time, otherwise the signature beverage will receive a score of 0 for “taste balance” on the sensory score sheets in the signature beverage category.
- E.** A predominant taste of espresso must be present; otherwise the taste balance score will reflect the resulting sensory experience
- F.** The signature beverage may be served at any consumable temperature.
- G.** All ingredients must be disclosed upon request. Competitors must bring the original packaging of all ingredients used in the signature beverage for inspection by judges to verify ingredients. If the competitor does not provide original packaging when asked, the signature beverage will receive 0 in all categories available on the sensory score sheets in the signature beverage.
- H.** Signature beverage ingredients should be prepared and assembled on-site during the competition time. The preparation of a signature beverage is captured in the “well explained, introduced, and prepared” category on the sensory score sheet. Preparation in advance of the competition time is necessary for certain ingredients (i.e. a 24 hour infusion) and is accepted.
- I.** Nothing other than ground coffee and water may be placed in the portafilters, otherwise the signature beverage will receive zero points in all categories available on the technical and sensory score sheets in the signature beverage category.

# OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION AREA

## 1. Espresso Machine

Competitors may only use the espresso machine supplied by the organizers. No other

Espresso machines may be used on stage. The provided espresso machine has a fixed technical configuration for the pump pressure (between 8.5 and 9.5 bars) and cannot be altered by the competitors. The machine temperature can be set at any temperature between 90.5 - 96 degrees Celsius (195 - 205 degrees Fahrenheit).

## 2. No Liquids or Ingredients on Machine

No liquids or ingredients of any kind may be placed or poured on top of the espresso machine (i.e. no water in cups, no pouring or mixing liquids or ingredients, no warming ingredients). If a competitor places or pours liquid or ingredients on top of the machine, they will receive zero points for the Station Management category

## 3. Automatic Grinder

Grinders that are provided on-site have a fixed technical configuration including the hopper and cannot be opened/altered internally by the competitors. Competitors may bring their own grinder with them.

**4. Machine Table** (for espresso machine, grinder and blender) L: 1.80m W: 0.90m H: 0.90m

**5. Work Table** (for trays, glassware and additional accessories) L: 1.80m W: 0.60m H: 0.90m; Presentation

**6. Judges' Table** L: 2.39m W: 0.60m H: 1m

## 7. Blender

## 8. Knockbox

## 9. Additional Electrical Equipment

In addition to the grinder(s) provided, competitors may use up to two additional pieces of electrical equipment during their performance.

Competitors must notify the organizer prior to the day of the competition of any electrical equipment they are bringing (i.e. hot plate, hand mixer, etc.), otherwise the competitor is at risk of their equipment not being allowed in their performance.

## 10. Recommended Equipment & Supplies

The list of supplies the competitor may bring includes the following:

- Coffee
- Additional electrical equipment (maximum two items)
- Tamper
- Shot glasses
- Steaming pitchers
- Milk
- Cups and saucers as needed
- Spoons
- Any specific utensils required
- All equipment/accessories required for the "Signature Beverage"
- Napkins
- Water glasses (for four sensory judges)
- Water (for four sensory judges)
- Bar towels/clean cloths (for practice and the competition)
- Cleaning supplies (counter brush, grinder brush, etc.)
- Tray(s) (for serving drinks to the judges)
- All accessories for the judges' presentation table
- Waiter's cart

## PREPARATION AREA

A back area is available and equipped with the below:

- Stainless steel table
- Fridge for the ingredients
- Freezer
- Sink

***Make sure to keep all your ingredients in the fridge and freezer of the back area before the competition starts.***

***PS: only one hour before the competition you can use the back area.***

# PREPARATION/COMPETITION/CLEAN UP TIME

## PREPARATION TIME (ONLY 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION)

### • Judges' Presentation Table

The judges' presentation table can be set during the competitor's preparation time. Water for the judges is allowed to be set on the judges' presentation table during the competitor's preparation time; however, the water should not be poured into glasses prior to the start of the competitor's performance, otherwise the competitor will receive zero points in the "Presentation: professionalism" category on all sensory score sheets. If a competitor does not wish to preset the judges' presentation table during his/her preparation time he/she can set the table at the start of his/her competition/performance time.

### • Practice Shots

Competitors are allowed and encouraged to pull practice shots during their preparation time. "Pucks" (also known as "cakes") may remain in the portafilters at the start of the competitor's competition time.

### • Pre-Heated Cups

Cups can be preheated during the competitor's preparation time. However, no water may be present in cups at the start of the competitor's competition time. Liquids or ingredients must not be placed on top of the machine otherwise zero points will be awarded in "station management."

## COMPETITION TIME

### • Competition Music

Competitors may bring their own music on a CD or USB drive. Music may not contain profanity, otherwise the competitor's score on "Presentation: professionalism" may be penalized on all sensory scoresheets. Competitors must mark their music clearly with their name. It is the competitor's responsibility to give the Stage Manager or Audio-Visual staff their music prior to the start of the competition. It is also the competitor's responsibility to retrieve the music from the Stage Manager or Audio-Visual staff after the competition. Media that are not retrieved will be discarded after the competition.

### • Microphone and Master of Ceremonies

Competitors are required to wear a wireless microphone during their performances; however, the microphone will only be on during the performance time. In the Final round, the Master of Ceremonies (emcee) will introduce the competitor to the audience.

### • Begin Competition Time

A. The Master of Ceremonies will ask the competitor if they are ready to begin. Before introducing themselves to the judges, the competitor must start the official clock by pressing the button located on the remote control or by using a method instructed by the Stage Manager. The designated timekeeper will begin a stopwatch the moment the competitor starts the official clock timer, to begin their 15 minutes of competition/performance time.

B. Tracking time elapsed during the 15-minute competition/performance 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 10- minute, 5-minute, 3-minute, 1-minute, and 30-second warning during their 15 minutes of competition time. The timekeeper is required to vocalize these warnings in real-time and may interrupt a competitor while they are speaking.

C. If the clock malfunctions for any reason, competitors may not stop their performance. In the case that the clock has malfunctioned, the timekeeper's time is the official time for the competition. The competitor will receive the same warnings noted above.

### • Competitor Introduction

At the start of the competitor's performance, they will introduce themselves to the 4 sensory judges and the head judge. The 4 sensory judges and head judge will be behind the judges' presentation table. The technical judge will stand towards 1 side of the station or behind the station and will take reasonable care to not interfere with the competitor.

### • Serve Required Beverages

A. All drinks must be served at the judges' presentation table(s). Drinks not served at the judges' presentation table(s) will receive a score of 0 in Taste Balance and Accuracy of Flavor Descriptors (where applicable).

B. Competitors are required to serve and/or provide unflavored water to the 4 sensory judges for each beverage course. Competitors can serve unflavored water to the judges at the start of the performance time or when the first set of drinks are served. Water glasses should be filled as needed throughout the presentation.

### • Station Perimeters

Competitors may only utilize the work area provided by the organizers: the machine table and presentation tables. The introduction of any other furniture and/or equipment that is placed directly on or over the competition area floor (e.g., a stand, table, dumbwaiter, bench, etc.) will result in automatic disqualification. Competitors may not utilize any space under any competition tables for storage, otherwise the competitor will receive 0 points in the "Station management/Clean working area at end" section. The only allowed exceptions to the rule are a free-standing knockbox, and steps or platforms as necessary for baristas to fully access the espresso machine & presentation tables.

### • End Competition Time

A. Competition time will be stopped when a competitor raises their hand and says "time". It is the competitor's responsibility to call "time" clearly to allow the time to be recorded accurately.

Only the time recorded by the head judge or official timekeeper will be used for scoring purposes.

B. The competitor may choose to end their performance at any time. For example, competitors can stop the clock once their final drink is placed on the presentation table to be served to the judges or may choose to go back to their station to clean before stopping the clock.

C. Competitors are allowed up to 15 minutes for completion of their performance without penalty. There is no penalty or additional incentive to complete a performance in less than 15 minutes.

### • Communication after the Competition Time

Competitors may not talk to the judges once their performance has ended. Any communication provided to judges after the completion of a presentation will not be considered for scoring evaluation. Competitors may continue to talk to the Master of Ceremonies after the competition time has ended; however, the judges will not consider conversation or information given after the competition time.

If the tied competitors have the same sensory espresso and milk beverage scores, then the higher placement will be awarded to the competitor with the higher "Total impression" score (Part V from all four sensory scoresheets)

### • Time Penalties

If the competitor has not finished his/her preparation or presentation during the allotted 15 minute period, he/she is allowed to proceed until the preparation or presentation is completed.

One point shall be deducted for every second over 15 minutes from the competitor's total score up to a maximum penalty of 60 points (one minute).

Any competitor whose preparation or performance period exceeds 16 minutes will be disqualified.

### • Runners Clear the Served Drinks

After each set of drinks has been served to and evaluated by the judges, a runner will clear the drinks from the judges' presentation table at the direction of the head judge. Runners will remove cups, saucers and spoons used in the previous beverage course. If a competitor has special instructions for the runner, they will need to explain these instructions to the runner, head judge, and the stage manager before the start of their competition time, otherwise the standard of cups, saucers and spoons will be removed. If instructions were not given to the head judge and the stage manager and if the wares the competitor wants onstage were removed by the runner, retrieval of the wares is allowed. The runner will make every reasonable effort to avoid impeding the competitor, but it is the competitor's responsibility to navigate their station successfully.

### • Forgotten Accessories

If a competitor has forgotten any of his/her equipment and/or accessories during his/her preparation time, the competitor may exit the stage to retrieve the missing items; however, his/her preparation time will not be paused.

If a competitor has forgotten any of his/her equipment and/or accessories during his/her competition time, he/she must inform the head judge that they have forgotten an item(s) off stage and then retrieve the missing item(s) himself/herself. The competition time will not be paused.

Nothing may be delivered by the runners, supporters, team members or the audience, otherwise the competitor is subject to disqualification by the presiding head judge.

## CLEAN-UP TIME

Once a competitor has completed his/her performance, he/she should begin cleaning up the station. A station runner will bring the waiters cart back out on stage for the competitor to load his/her supplies on. If a competitor has brought his/her own electrical equipment, the station runner can help the competitor remove these items from the station. Competitors are expected to remove all their personal equipment and supplies and thoroughly wipe down their station. The judges do not evaluate the clean-up time.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

The judges are looking for a champion who:

- A.** Has a mastery of technical skills, craftsmanship, communication skills and service skills and is passionate about the barista profession.
- B.** Has a broad understanding of coffee knowledge beyond the twelve drinks being served in the competition.
- C.** Prepares and serves high quality beverages.
- D.** May serve as a role model and a source of inspiration for others.

## Competition Area

The technical judge will evaluate the competition area for cleanliness at the beginning and end of the performance/competition time. In the absence of a technical judge, the head judge will evaluate the cleanliness at the end of the performance/competition time.

## Taste Evaluation

Points will be awarded for the taste of each individual drink (i.e. espresso, milk beverage, and the signature beverage).

Consideration will be given to raw materials used and style of the beverage. Competitors should strive for a harmonious balance of sweetness, acidity and bitterness. Competitors are advised to explain verbally to the judges why they chose their particular coffee, the basic roast profile, the espresso constituent structure, the major taste elements, the ingredients used in the signature beverage and the philosophy behind the drinks served.

## Beverage Presentation

Points will be awarded based on the visual presentation of the drinks including cups, glasses and accessories. This includes elements such as cleanliness of cups and saucers (no spills or drips on cups), consistency of methodology, creativity, and style of presentation.

## Technical Skills

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

## TECHNICAL EVALUATION PROCEDURE (you can find at the end of the manual the scoring sheets)

Each competitor will be evaluated by a technical judge. The following is an explanation of the technical score sheet.

## Evaluation Scale

The evaluation scale is the same for both technical and sensory judges. There are two types of scores: the "yes/no score" and the "zero to six score."

Yes = 1 & No = 0

Unacceptable = 0, Acceptable = 1, Average = 2, Good = 3, Very Good = 4, Excellent = 5, Extraordinary = 6

Yes/No Score

The competitor receives one point for a score of Yes on this item, and zero points for a score of No.

Zero to Six Score

## Evaluation Criteria

Some score sheet criteria is evaluated on a scale of zero to six, with zero being the lowest score and six being the highest. It is acceptable to use half point increments between 1.0 and 6.0, which are recorded using a decimal point, not a fraction. (For example, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5.) The lowest score with value is one. A score of 0.5 may not be used. A score of zero is used when certain criteria is deemed totally unacceptable. Scores of zero and six require the approval of the head judge.

## TECHNICAL SCORE SHEET – PART I

Clean working area at start-up/clean cloths

- A.** The cleanliness and organization of the competitor's work station (work table, prep table, top of machine) will be evaluated on a scale from one to six. If the area is deemed messy, a score of one will be recorded.
- B.** The judges will assess the competitor's ability to organize the working area in a practical and efficient way.
- C.** Over preparation should be marked down (i.e. milk in the pitchers, pre-poured water in the water glasses, etc.)
- D.** A minimum of three clean cloths should be available when the performance time starts. The cloths must be clean and have a designated purpose (i.e. one for the steam wand, one for drying/cleaning baskets, one for bar clean up. A towel on the competitor's apron/person for one of these uses is included in this count).
- E.** The cups should be warming. The cups should be placed on top of the espresso machine, unless the competitor is using his/her own device to warm the cups. There should be no water in the cups at the start of the competitor's competition time. If there is any water in the cups on top of

the espresso machine at any time, the competitor will receive a score of zero for “station management/clean working area at end” on the technical score sheet.

**F.** Competitors may have pucks (used coffee grounds) in the portafilters at the start of his/her competition time. This will not count against “clean working area at start-up/clean cloths.”

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS ESPRESSO – PART II 0 to 6**

Please note the technical skills standards are the same for all three beverages.

### **Flushes the group head**

Flushing of the group head must occur in the time after removal of the portafilter and prior to each extraction. If the group head was flushed prior to the extraction of the served beverages, the judge will mark “Yes.”

### **Dry/clean filter basket before dosing**

If the filter basket is completely dry and clean prior to the served beverages, the judge will mark “Yes.”

### **Acceptable spill/waste when dosing/grinding**

Spill/waste is ground coffee left unused during the competition/performance time that may be found in the espresso grinder’s dosing chamber, in the knock box, on the counter, in the trash, on the floor or elsewhere. Waste created in the process of preparing beverages that are not served to judges does not count towards a competitor’s total waste evaluation. Spill/waste of up to five grams of unused coffee per beverage category is considered acceptable. In order to earn a score of excellent (five) or higher, the waste must not exceed one gram of unused coffee per beverage category. Wasting more than five grams of coffee per beverage category is unacceptable and will result in zero points. A reasonable amount of coffee purged is not included in waste.

All coffee used for drinks must be ground during the competitor’s 15 minutes’ competition time.

### **Consistent and effective dosing and tamping**

The competitor must demonstrate a consistent method for dosing and tamping. The competitor should evenly distribute the coffee grounds, followed by leveled tamping of adequate pressure. Cultural differences will be taken into consideration.

### **Cleans portafilters (before insert)**

The competitor must clean the basket rim and side flanges of the portafilter before inserting it into the machine. If done, the judge will mark “yes.”

### **Insert and immediate brew**

The competitor should start the extraction immediately after inserting the portafilter into the machine without any delay. If done, the judge will mark “yes.”

### **Extraction time (within a three second variance)**

Judges will time all shots extracted and determine whether shot extraction times are within a three second variance. If the extraction time is within a three second variance of each other within each drinks category, the judge will mark “yes.” Extraction time begins when the competitor activates the machine’s brew cycle. Shot times for shots that are not served will not be included in this score.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS MILK BEVERAGE – PART III 0 to 6**

- Empty/clean pitcher at start the competitor should pour cold, fresh milk into a clean pitcher, which must not have been filled during the preparation time.
- The pitcher should be clean on both inside and on the outside.
- Purges the steam wand before steaming
- The competitor should purge the steam wand before inserting it into the milk pitcher.
- Cleans the steam wand after steaming
- The steam wand should be cleaned with a dedicated steam wand towel.
- Purges the steam wand after steaming
- The competitor should purge the steam wand after steaming the milk.
- Acceptable milk waste at end
- The pitcher should be more or less empty after the milk beverages have been prepared. Acceptable waste is no more than 90ml/3 oz in total.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS SIGNATURE BEVERAGE – PART IV

Station management/Clean working area at end

- A.** Technical judge will evaluate the competitor's overall workflow and use of tools, equipment and accessories.
- B.** The competitor should display an understanding of the correct use and operation of the espresso machine.
- C.** The competitor should display an understanding of the correct use and operation of the grinder – including the management of coffee in and through the grinder. Competitors should be grinding coffee for each shot or set of shots.
- D.** The competitor should try to achieve extraction times within a three second variance and shot volume of 2535-ml (30ml +/-5ml).
- E.** The technical judge will evaluate the competitor's work-flow throughout the presentation, including: the organization and placement of tools, cups and accessories; the competitor's movement and flow in and around the work station; the cleanliness and maintenance of the station (equipment, counters, towels, pitchers); the management of coffee and ingredients (milk, signature beverage ingredients).
- F.** Liquids or ingredients must not be placed on top of the machine; otherwise zero will be awarded in "station management/ clean working area at end."
- G.** The cleanliness of the area is evaluated. If a spill occurs, the competitor should have it cleaned up by the end of his/her performance time. Cleaning while working (i.e. removing spent grounds or wiping tables) will improve the competitor's score, as will cleaning the station before he/she ends his/her performance time. All wares and tools (i.e. tampers, cups, trays, pitchers) are included in this evaluation including items on the espresso machine and work tables. Spent pucks (used coffee grounds) are allowed to be in the portafilters at the end of the performance and are not part of this score.

### Clean portafilter spouts/Avoided placing spouts in doser chamber

- A.** The competitor needs to remove any water or grounds on the portafilter spouts by cleaning the spouts. Rinsing, using a towel, and wiping with fingers are all acceptable methods for achieving clean spouts.
- B.** During distributing and leveling of coffee grounds, the competitor should not place portafilter spouts directly over the dosing chamber. (This could allow water to contaminate the dosing chamber.)
- C.** If the competitor has clean portafilter spouts before each extraction and does not place the portafilter spouts over the dosing chamber, the judge will mark "yes."

### General hygiene throughout presentation

The judge will determine this score based on the competitor's sanitary practices throughout their entire presentation. If proper hygiene is used for the entire presentation, the judge will mark "yes."

Examples of unacceptable practices include:

- Touching hands to face, mouth, etc. and then using the hands for beverage preparation.
- Touching the floor and then using the hands for beverage preparation.

### Proper usage of cloths

The judges will evaluate the correct and sanitary usage of the competitor's cloths. The competitor should use one for the steam wand, one for cleaning the filter basket and one for the workstation.

Examples of unacceptable practices are:

- Using a non-dedicated cloth to clean a steam wand (using it for some other purpose other than using it to clean a steam wand.)
- Anything that is not sanitary or food safe with a cloth such as: touching it to face, mouth, etc.
- Using a cloth once it has touched the floor or dropped.

## SENSORY EVALUATION PROCEDURE

### ESPRESSO EVALUATION – PART I

Espressos will be evaluated using the following protocol by all sensory judges. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores. Sensory judges will stir the espresso THREE times with a spoon (moving the spoon front to back) to mix the flavors within the shot, then immediately taste. Sensory judges will take at least two complete sips to fully evaluate the espresso. Judges will not taste the espresso off the spoon. Competitors may override the evaluation protocol by giving the judges specific alternative instructions on how they want the espresso evaluated. As long as the instructions are reasonable, the judges should follow all instructions given by the competitor.

## **Crema**

Judges will visually evaluate the appearance of the crema for presence in the vessel. To score a “yes” the crema must stretch across the entire surface of the espresso and not have any holes or broken spots. Taste Balance Judges will evaluate the espresso based on how well the taste components (sweet, acidic, bitter) fit together and complement each other. Reference scales provided on scoresheets are solely for judge’s initial impression of intensity; equal intensity does not imply harmonious balance. Accuracy of Flavor Descriptors Judges will listen to the flavor descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the beverage served. There should be a correlation between the coffee beans used in the espresso and its taste profile. Any flavor descriptors given by the competitor for their espresso will be taken into consideration under this score. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors match the flavor of the espresso. Flavor descriptors must be given or a score of zero will be received in this category.

## **Tactile**

Judges will listen to the tactile descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the weight and mouth feel and finish of the beverage served. The espresso should have body and texture that correlate with the preparation, method of extraction, and coffee beans used in the espresso. The competitor will be scored solely on any tactile descriptors they offer the judges and how accurately these descriptors match the tactile sensation of their espresso. If no descriptors are provided, the expectation will be a full-bodied, round, and smooth finish.

## **Functional and Correct Espresso Vessel Used**

Espresso must be served in the vessel it is intended to be visually evaluated and drunk from. It must be a 6090-ml vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to: vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely, judges unable to execute espresso evaluation protocol. Otherwise a “no” will be given for “functional and correct espresso cup used.”

## **MILK BEVERAGE EVALUATION – PART II**

Milk beverages will be evaluated using the following protocol by all sensory judges. It is important that sensory judges follow this protocol consistently. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores.

Sensory judges will first evaluate the appearance of the milk beverage. Next, they will take an initial sip from anywhere on the rim of the cup. After the initial sip, the sensory judges will revisit the milk beverage for at least one additional sip from an undisturbed location on the rim of the cup. Competitors may override the evaluation protocol by giving the judges specific alternative instructions on how they want the milk beverage evaluated. As long as the instructions are reasonable, the judges should follow all instructions given by the competitor.

## **Visual**

Judges will evaluate the appearance of the milk beverage to determine its visual score. On the surface, the milk beverage should have a color combination of milk and coffee, with good color contrast definition, symmetrical design and a smooth and possibly glossy/glass-like sheen. (Note: It is not acceptable for milk beverages to be topped with any additional spices and/or powders. Doing so will result in a zero score in the “taste balance” category).

## **Taste Balance**

The milk beverage is a hot beverage that should be served at a temperature that is immediately consumable. The texture and temperature of the beverage and the taste of the coffee and milk will be included in the balance evaluation. The milk beverage should have a harmonious balance of the sweetness of the milk and its espresso base. There should be a correlation between the coffee beans used in the espresso, the coffee’s taste profile, and how the balance is highlighted by the addition of milk.

## **Accuracy of Flavor Descriptors**

Judges will listen to the flavor descriptions and explanations given by the competitor and compare those with the beverage served. There should be a correlation between the coffee beans used in the milk beverage and its taste profile. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors match the flavor of the milk beverage. Flavor descriptors must be given or a score of zero will be received in this category.

## **Functional Vessel Used**

Milk beverages must be served in a vessel from which judges must be able to drink as required without any functional detriment to their ability to score accurately; this includes but is not exclusive to: vessel being too hot, unable to hold and drink from vessel safely. Otherwise a “no” will be given for “functional vessel used.”



## **SIGNATURE BEVERAGE EVALUATION – PART III**

Signature beverage evaluations vary due to the variety of options presented by the competitor. Sensory judges will complete all steps of the evaluation before recording scores.

### **Well Explained, Introduced, and Prepared**

The competitor must explain his or her signature drink to the judges. In order to achieve a high score, the explanation should include factual points such as the ingredients, preparation method and the flavors and/or aromas the judges will experience. The description should include the coffee used and the connection between the coffee and the other ingredients.

Sensory judges will listen to the explanation of ingredients, preparation method, and use of coffee given by the competitor and take notes. When determining this score, judges will consider whether or not there is a strong correlation between what was described and prepared, and the actual taste and aromas of the signature beverage.

The competitor must explain to the sensory judges how to drink the beverage (smell, stir, sip, etc.). The sensory judges will listen and follow drinking instructions to the best of his/her ability. If no information or instructions are given, judges will individually choose how to evaluate the signature beverage. In every case, judges should take a minimum of two sips of the signature beverage.

Judges will evaluate the signature beverage based on the explanations provided by competitors or other observations during the 15 minute presentation only. Any explanation given by the competitor after the completion of the presentation time, (clock is stopped and/or the competitor calls "time") will not be considered by the judges.

### **Appealing Presentation**

"Appealing presentation" is the evaluation of the appearance and appeal of the signature beverage, including but not limited to the vessel, the beverage itself, garnishes, accessories, etc. The vessel served should look pleasing and highlight its beverage. If the signature beverage is not appealing, including chipped or cloudy dishware, or cluttered or disorganized presentation, a "no" will be given in "appealing presentation."

### **Functionality**

"Functionality" is defined by how the signature beverage and related elements work while the drink is consumed and the barista's instructions on how to drink it. The dishware, garnishes, accessories, or instructions should not hinder drinking the beverage.

Difficulty of consumption will result in a "no" in "functionality."

### **Creativity and Synergy with Coffee**

Judges will evaluate the creativity of competitors based on the originality of their concept, and any new methods, techniques or ingredients used in the preparation or presentation of the signature beverage. Ingredients must complement and showcase the espresso while creating an interesting taste experience. Signature beverages with a complimentary blend of creative ingredients, technique and predominant espresso flavor will be rewarded with a high score.

Note: "Synergy" is defined as the interaction or cooperation of two or more substances to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

### **Taste Balance**

Judges will evaluate the signature beverages based on how well the taste components of the espresso (sweet, acidic, bitter) fit together and complement the other ingredients used. The espresso taste should be predominant and easy to identify in order to obtain high marks in this category. Judges must follow drinking instructions provided by the competitor.

### **Accuracy of Flavor Descriptors**

Judges will listen to the flavor descriptions and explanations given by the competitors and compare those with the beverage served. There should be a correlation between the coffee beans used in the signature beverage and its taste profile. This score is based on how accurately these descriptors match the flavor of the signature beverage. Flavor descriptors must be given or a score of zero will be received in this category.

## BARISTA EVALUATION – PART IV

### Presentation: Professionalism

Professionalism is evaluated by the observed qualities relevant to the barista profession including technique, preparation and the wider understanding of coffee beyond the preparation of the twelve drinks served. Wider coffee knowledge includes the process of coffee cultivation, roasting and preparation from seed to cup as well as an implicit understanding of the correct use of the equipment, good customer service skills (i.e. politeness, accuracy, attentiveness, eye contact, etc.) and the ability to manage workflow and time. Judges will look for a strong correlation between what is explained and what is delivered.

The competitor must demonstrate that he or she is a coffee professional who has command over their presentation and coffee.

### Attention to Detail/All Accessories Available

All accessories should be readily available and the working area well and purposefully organized. Competitors should not need to reposition equipment and accessories unnecessarily during their performance. Everything should have its own place and purpose. Judges should look for the competitor to have back-up cups and accessories in case of mistakes or spills. Refilling of judges' water glasses also demonstrates attention to detail. The espresso must be served with a spoon, napkin, and unflavored water.

### Appropriate Apparel

At a minimum, the competitor must look clean, be cleanly dressed and wear a clean apron. If okay, the judge will mark "yes." The lack of an apron or presence of inappropriate apparel (such as sandals or excessively torn or stained clothing) will result in a "no" in "appropriate apparel."

## JUDGES' TOTAL IMPRESSION – PART V

The judges' total impression score captures two primary areas:

- A.** The "total impression" score is the overall composite impression of the taste scores (i.e. did the combination of the three courses of drinks create an experience that was stronger in delivery than if just one course had been served on its own?).
- B.** The judges must consider and assign points towards the passion and inspiration that the barista has displayed during their routine. They must consider (allowing for cultural and personality differences) points such as natural, clear and concise communication, display of enthusiasm and dedication toward specialty coffee, and an ability to act as a role model for the barista profession/ industry (i.e. If in a cafe/ restaurant environment, would this barista have inspired me about specialty coffee?) If the judges feel that this has been achieved, they should award high scores.

# SCOREKEEPING

## Official Scorekeeping

The official scorekeepers are responsible for adding all scores and for keeping all scores confidential.

## Competitor's Total Score

In Round One, the competitor's total score will be tallied by adding the sum of the technical scoresheet and all 4 sensory scoresheets, then deducting any time penalty. Please note the head judge scoresheet does not count towards the competitor's total score in Round One. In the Final Rounds, the competitor's total score will be tallied by adding the sum of the 4 sensory scoresheets, the Station Management and Clean Working Area at End scores from the Head Judge scoresheet, then deducting any time penalty.

## Tie Scores

If there is a tie between 2 or more competitors, the official scorekeepers will total all the involved competitor's sensory espresso scores (Part I from all 4 sensory scoresheets). The competitor with the highest sensory espresso score will win the tie and place above any other competitor with the same total competition score.

If the tied competitors have the same sensory espresso score, then the higher placement will be awarded to the competitor with the higher total sensory milk beverage score (Part II from all four sensory scoresheets).

## Debriefing

Following the competition, competitors will have an opportunity to review their scoresheets with the judges. The judges will discuss the details during the competition meeting.



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