

## Technical Excellence on the Global Stage: Master Brewers Shine at the 2026 World Beer Cup

The 2026 World Beer Cup (WBC) recently concluded in Philadelphia, marking another milestone for the global brewing community. With 8,166 entries from 1,644 breweries across 50 countries, the competition remains the most prestigious platform for recognizing brewing quality and technical precision.

For the Master Brewers Association of the Americas (MBAA), the results were a powerful validation of the association's mission. Among the 353 medals awarded, 89 were from a brewery with a MBAA member. This means that over 25% of all World Beer Cup awards went to breweries with active Master Brewers members, demonstrating that a commitment to brewing science and engineering consistently leads to world-class results.

### A Legacy of Technical Precision

Success at the World Beer Cup is rarely an accident; it is the result of rigorous quality control, sensory analysis, and technical expertise. This year, breweries with a MBAA members stood out in some of the most technically demanding categories, from traditional German-style lagers to complex specialty fermentations.

From the Pacific Northwest to the Atlantic coast, the MBAA footprint was visible across the podium. Notable achievements included:

- **District Northwest:** Continued its history of excellence with a massive showing – representing 18 of the 89 MBAA medalists, and 56 of the overall total. Technical powerhouses like **pFriem Family Brewers**, **Breakside Brewery**, and **Deschutes**—whose teams include dedicated Master Brewers professionals—once again set the gold standard in highly competitive categories.
- **District Texas:** The Lone Star State showed remarkable growth in technical categories. **Zilker Brewing Co.** came away with silver for their Bolo Season despite 274 entries in that category. **Saint Arnold Brewing Co.** earned a Silver for Lawnmower Beer—a testament to consistency in high-volume technical brewing—while **Pinthouse** continued its streak of excellence in hop-forward categories.
- **California and Rocky Mountains:** In the Rockies, members showcased the region's long-standing reputation for quality with key wins in high-entry categories including gold for **Uinta Brewing Co.** for their German-Style Pilsener. Meanwhile, California's technical influence was undeniable; **Cellarmaker Brewing Co.** (District Northern California) took home Gold for *Mt. Cook* in the International Lager category, and **Riip Beer Co.** (District Southern California) secured multiple honors in highly competitive dark lager and stout categories, proving that the commitment to precision is alive and well.

- **The East Coast Districts and Beyond:** Technical leadership was on full display in the Mid-Atlantic and New York regions. From **Allagash Brewing Co.** securing 2 medals for the New England District, to **Caboose Brewing Co.** claiming Gold for their *Boxcar Brown* to wins from **New Trail Brewing Co.** and **Wander Back Beerworks**, MBAA members proved that technical mastery is a nationwide trait.

## Member Success by the Numbers

The data from this year’s competition highlights the "MBAA advantage." Out of 273 total winning breweries, 24.5% have an active MBAA member on staff.

- **Total Medals Awarded:** 353
- **Wins with an MBAA Member on Staff:** 89
- **Percentage of Total Medals:** 25.2%

**See Appendix A below for the full list of WBC medalists with a Master Brewers member.**

## The Road Ahead: From Competition to Collaboration

While the medals represent a moment of celebration, the true value lies in the shared knowledge that drives these successes. Many of this year’s winners are frequent contributors to the *Technical Quarterly*, participants in the MBAA Brewery Courses and district technical sessions, and leaders within their local districts.

As the industry continues to evolve through new technologies and raw material innovations, the Master Brewers remains dedicated to providing the educational resources necessary for every brewer to achieve this level of excellence. Whether through district technical sessions or national conferences, the goal remains the same: **united we brew** creating better beer through brewing science.

**Congratulations to all the 2026 World Beer Cup winners!** We look forward to seeing many of these award-winning techniques shared at our upcoming district meetings and national events.

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For a list of members, to learn more about the educational resources, or to join the “Ask the Brewmasters” discussions, visit the [MBAA website](https://www.mbaa.com) or email [mbaa@mbaa.com](mailto:mbaa@mbaa.com)

Sources:

1. <https://www.worldbeercup.org/winners/award-winners/>
2. <https://www.mbaa.com/>



## Appendix A. – WBC Winning Breweries with a Current MBAA Member on Staff

Won a WBC medal but don't see your brewery listed? Have a team member [join Master Brewers](#) and list your brewery as their place of work so we can recognize their wins!

Winning Category	Medal	Brewery Name	MBAA District
12: Dessert or Pastry Beer – 45 Entries	Bronze	Hi-Wire Brewing Co.	Carolinas District
80: Belgian-Style Blonde Ale – 44 Entries	Gold	Liability Brewing Co.	Carolinas District
106: American-Style Imperial Stout – 33 Entries	Bronze	Olde Hickory Brewery	Carolinas District
94: Old Ale, Strong Ale or Aged Beer – 30 Entries	Gold	Olde Hickory Brewery	Carolinas District
58: American-Style Pilsener – 80 Entries	Silver	Swells'a Brewing	Carolinas District
2: Fruit Beer – 87 Entries	Silver	Wicked Weed Brewing	Carolinas District
66: Barley Wine-Style Ale – 36 Entries	Bronze	Monday Night Brewing	Georgia District
77: Specialty Saison – 58 Entries	Silver	Monday Night Brewing	Georgia District
16: Hoppy Non-Alcohol Beer – 62 Entries	Silver	Big Grove Brewery	Great Plains District
16: Hoppy Non-Alcohol Beer – 62 Entries	Bronze	Boulevard Brewing Co.	Great Plains District
32: Wood- and Barrel-Aged Strong Beer – 106 Entries	Bronze	Boulevard Brewing Co.	Great Plains District
86: English Mild or Bitter – 64 Entries	Bronze	Lion Bridge Brewing Co.	Great Plains District
96: Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout – 51 Entries	Gold	Lion Bridge Brewing Co.	Great Plains District
26: American-Belgo-Style Ale – 34 Entries	Silver	River Bluff Brewing	Great Plains District
27: American-Style Sour or Wood & Barrel Aged Sour Beer – 28 Entries	Gold	Garage Project	Independent District
58: American-Style Pilsener – 80 Entries	Gold	Atlas Brew Works	Mid-Atlantic District
30: Mixed-Culture Brett Beer – 47 Entries	Silver	Lost Forty Brewery	Mid-South District
20: Strong Porter – 55 Entries	Bronze	Fat Heads Brewery	Midwest District
70: South German-Style Weissbier – 110 Entries	Bronze	Fat Heads Brewery	Midwest District
99: Scotch Ale – 49 Entries	Bronze	Land-Grant Brewing Co.	Midwest District
106: American-Style Imperial Stout – 33 Entries	Silver	Seventh Son Brewing Co.	Midwest District
27: American-Style Sour or Wood & Barrel Aged Sour Beer – 28 Entries	Silver	Sun King Brewery	Midwest District
42: Italian-Style Pilsener – 89 Entries	Silver	Vault 202 Brewery & Taproom	Milwaukee District
75: Belgian-Style Witbier – 68 Entries	Gold	Allagash Brewing Co.	New England District
84: Belgian-Style Strong Specialty Ale – 81 Entries	Bronze	Allagash Brewing Co.	New England District
86: English Mild or Bitter – 64 Entries	Gold	Arlington Brewing Co.	New England District
67: German-Style Koelsch – 111 Entries	Bronze	Caius Farm Brewery	New England District
37: Smoke Beer – 75 Entries	Silver	Counter Weight Brewing Co.	New England District
92: Oatmeal Stout – 46 Entries	Gold	Counter Weight Brewing Co.	New England District
41: Hoppy Lager – 88 Entries	Bronze	Jack's Abby Craft Lagers	New England District
94: Old Ale, Strong Ale or Aged Beer – 30 Entries	Bronze	Samuel Adams Brewery	New England District
90: Robust Porter – 48 Entries	Bronze	Blue Point	New York District





Winning Category	Medal	Brewery Name	MBAA District
110: Imperial India Pale Ale – 112 Entries	Bronze	Barebottle Brewing Co.	Northern California District
64: International Pale Ale – 75 Entries	Bronze	Barebottle Brewing Co.	Northern California District
39: International-Style Pilsener – 78 Entries	Bronze	Russian River Brewing Co.	Northern California District
17: Specialty Non-Alcohol Beer – 46 Entries	Silver	Go Brewing	Northern Illinois District
17: Specialty Non-Alcohol Beer – 46 Entries	Bronze	Go Brewing	Northern Illinois District
34: Wood- and Barrel-Aged Dessert or Pastry Beer – 52 Entries	Gold	Goose Island Beer Co.	Northern Illinois District
54: American Light Lager – 98 Entries	Bronze	Goose Island Beer Co.	Northern Illinois District
96: Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout – 51 Entries	Bronze	Industry Ales	Northern Illinois District
71: South German-Style Dunkel Weizen – 18 Entries	Gold	Piece Brewery	Northern Illinois District
69: Berliner-Style Weisse – 35 Entries	Silver	Aslan Brewing Co.	Northwest District
19: Session India Pale Ale – 80 Entries	Silver	Breakside Brewery	Northwest District
42: Italian-Style Pilsener – 89 Entries	Gold	Breakside Brewery	Northwest District
63: Australian-Style Pale Ale – 52 Entries	Gold	Breakside Brewery	Northwest District
64: International Pale Ale – 75 Entries	Gold	Breakside Brewery	Northwest District
8: Tea Beer – 36 Entries	Bronze	Breakside Brewery	Northwest District
45: Munich-Style Helles – 156 Entries	Bronze	Deschutes Brewery	Northwest District
15: Classic Non-Alcohol Ale or Lager – 78 Entries	Bronze	Fremont Brewing	Northwest District
25: Gluten-Free Beer – 50 Entries	Gold	Ghostfish Brewing	Northwest District
36: Kellerbier or Zwickelbier – 55 Entries	Gold	pFriem Family Brewers	Northwest District
40: Rice Lager – 91 Entries	Bronze	pFriem Family Brewers	Northwest District
66: Barley Wine-Style Ale – 36 Entries	Gold	Reuben’s Brews	Northwest District
57: Contemporary American-Style Lager – 56 Entries	Gold	Single Hill Brewing Co.	Northwest District
101: American-Style Pale Ale	Silver	Stoup Brewing	Northwest District
64: International Pale Ale – 75 Entries	Silver	Sunriver Brewing Co.	Northwest District
9: Chocolate Beer – 40 Entries	Bronze	Sunriver Brewing Co.	Northwest District
54: American Light Lager – 98 Entries	Silver	Von Ebert Brewing	Northwest District
87: English-Style Pale Ale – 77 Entries	Bronze	Worthy Brewing	Northwest District
88: English-Style Brown Ale – 50 Entries	Bronze	Worthy Brewing	Northwest District
73: German-Style Altbier – 38 Entries	Gold	Cinderlands Beer Co.	Pittsburgh District
60: Mexican-Style Pale Lager – 114 Entries	Bronze	Lone Tree Brewing Co.	Rocky Mountain District
28: Fruited American-Style Sour Ale – 95 Entries	Bronze	New Belgium Brewing Co.	Rocky Mountain District





Winning Category	Medal	Brewery Name	MBAA District
82: Belgian-Style Tripel – 58 Entries	Silver	New Belgium Brewing Co.	Rocky Mountain District
87: English-Style Pale Ale – 77 Entries	Gold	Ska Brewing	Rocky Mountain District
43: German-Style Pilsener – 201 Entries	Gold	Uinta Brewing Co.	Rocky Mountain District
61: American-Style Cream Ale – 67 Entries	Bronze	Uinta Brewing Co.	Rocky Mountain District
49: Munich-Style Dunkel – 61 Entries	Bronze	BarrieHaus Beer Co.	Southeast District
85: Belgian-Style Fruit Beer – 65 Entries	Gold	AleSmith Brewing Co.	Southern California District
10: Coffee Beer – 48 Entries	Silver	East Village Brewing Co.	Southern California District
90: Robust Porter – 48 Entries	Gold	East Village Brewing Co.	Southern California District
10: Coffee Beer – 48 Entries	Bronze	Karl Strauss Brewing Co.	Southern California District
70: South German-Style Weissbier – 110 Entries	Gold	Karl Strauss Brewing Co.	Southern California District
98: Scottish-Style Ale – 32 Entries	Silver	Mountain Rambler Brewery	Southern California District
71: South German-Style Dunkel Weizen – 18 Entries	Silver	OB Brewery	Southern California District
108: Juicy or Hazy Strong Pale Ale – 116 Entries	Silver	Radiant Beer Co.	Southern California District
54: American Light Lager – 98 Entries	Gold	Transmission Brewing	Southern California District
52: German-Style Bock or Maibock – 66 Entries	Bronze	Altstadt Brewery	Texas District
80: Belgian-Style Blonde Ale – 44 Entries	Silver	Longtab Brewing	Texas District
110: Imperial India Pale Ale – 112 Entries	Gold	Pinthouse Brewing	Texas District
7: Herb and Spice Beer – 99 Entries	Bronze	Pinthouse Brewing	Texas District
99: Scotch Ale – 49 Entries	Silver	Real Ale Brewing Co.	Texas District
100: Golden or Blonde Ale – 86 Entries	Silver	Saint Arnold Brewing Co.	Texas District
56: American-Style Lager – 77 Entries	Bronze	Spoetzl Brewery	Texas District
113: Juicy or Hazy India Pale Ale – 274 Entries	Silver	Zilker Brewing Co.	Texas District
32: Wood- and Barrel-Aged Strong Beer – 106 Entries	Silver	Jackknife Brewing	Western Canada District
44: Czech-Style Pale Lager – 134 Entries	Gold	New York Beer Project	Western New York District
61: American-Style Cream Ale – 67 Entries	Gold	Resurgence Brewing	Western New York District

