

2015-16 Ratfest Orientation



Welcome to Ratfest! To assist ABC Microbrewery in making this event a success, we ask all homebrew clubs to familiarize themselves with the following information on our standards and policies.

Although you will find that many of our guidelines are similar to years past, we will be doing many things differently in an attempt to simplify and make involvement easier for all.

With any future questions or concerns, please contact our events coordinator, Nicole Bednarski.
email: nicoleb@cornerbrewery.com or by phone: (734) 480-2739

Brewing Sessions:

- All brew sessions will be scheduled on 9 different Sundays over the course of 4 months (not every Sunday). Dates are set according to brewer's availability.
- Four clubs will brew per day - two at 10 am and two at 1 pm
- No decoction or step mashes
- All clubs will be allowed approximately one hour mash and one hour boil
- October brewing is limited to sours: the mandatory beer recipe challenge
- November brewing is limited to lagers, pilsners, and imperials
- Brewing of all other styles will be done in December and January
- All groups must register for their October brewing session at orientation
- Scheduling for all other brew sessions will be open to clubs October 12th and must be completed by October 31st
- Scheduling for all brew sessions will be done through Nicole

Recipe Submission

- Sour recipe submission must be submitted by September 20th
- All other recipes must be submitted at the same time as November-January brew session scheduling
- Recipes must be creative and individual. Please remember that you are representing the abilities of the club with the submitted recipes. ABCM has the right to reject recipes determined in need of better quality and diversity
- All recipes must be scaled to 10 gallons of finished beer

Ingredients

- All homebrew clubs are welcome to utilize items in the ABCM brewery pantry
- All homebrew clubs are permitted to source ingredients beyond what is available at ABCM
- Clubs will be refunded up to \$30 for additional ingredients. There will be no exceptions made to this budget.
- Clubs must keep all receipts of ingredient purchases. These will be provided to Nicole for total refund at the conclusion of all brewing sessions in 2016.

- Refunds for individual purchases will not be provided before February and will not be issued by any other employee of ABCM.

General Policies

- No outside food or beverages. This includes nonalcoholic beverages.
- Absolutely no food in the brewery
- No open toed shoes
- No one under the age of 21

Brewing Session Policies

- No more than two people from the club will be permitted to participate in a brew session
- Club members will not be allowed visitors in the brewery
- Club members will not be permitted to “swap” out members during the brew session
- Each brewer from club receives two drink tickets. Does not include gratuity
- Special equipment can be used during the brewing process ONLY if approved in advance
- All homebrew club brewers must show up on time to their scheduled brewing session or the brew session will be canceled and will not be rescheduled
- There will be no rescheduling of missed brewing sessions unless the scheduled session is missed due to an emergency
- Club members are to remain sober throughout the entire brewing session and will be cut off by an employee of ABCM if deemed necessary

Liability Policies

- All club members participating in a brewing session must sign a waiver of liability before entering the brewery.

Festival Day Policies

- The challenge categories are as follows – Beer Challenge - Sour, Best Overall Beer, Best Overall Group, Best Decorated Table
- Any adjuncts to pair with beer must be approved in advance
- Leftover beer is property of the brewery for resale in an effort to cover costs of this event – no growlers or pitchers will be available of these beers the day of the event. There will be a release schedule announced after the event.
- Absolutely no minors or non-ticket holders will be allowed in the event (no exceptions). This is due to our maximum capacity.
- Homebrew clubs must leave booth immediately after untapping kegs at the completion of the festival
- All clubs must clean their own area