



## **2019-20 CRAFT SPIRITS JUDGING**

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**American Craft Spirits Association**

**2019-20 Craft Spirits Competition**

**October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 @ Cardinal Spirits, Bloomington IN**

*Registration Deadline: Midnight - Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*Receiving Deadline: Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019*

#### **Welcome**

We are pleased you are considering submitting your spirits in this world-class competition. You know you make a quality product. Let others know the same.

#### **Returning for the Second Year: INNOVATION AWARD**

You may produce innovative, remarkable spirits not commonly associated with a flavor profile in that spirits category. Until now, you may have been concerned that your spirits would be considered “outliers”, unfit for an award. DO NOT DESPAIR. Recognizing there are many terrific products that showcase true

creativity, ACSA is expanding our award structure. In addition to Best of Class for each category, we also will present an Innovation Award.

### **NOW ACCEPTING INTERNATIONAL SPIRITS**

#### **Your Spirits will be tasted and evaluated by a panel of top professionals**

The categories of Whiskey (including Bourbon), Brandy, Rum, Gin, Vodka, Specialty Liquors and RTD's will be judged.

- Judging Chair: Maggie Campbell (Privateer Rum, MA)
- Judges: Judging panels will be composed of highly-regarded professionals from multiple disciplines within the spirits industry. No judge with a vested interest in any specific category of spirit is allowed to judge in that category.

#### **Medalists**

**Category medalists** will be announced on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Awards Banquet during ACSA Distillers Convention & Vendor Trade Show at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. (Convention dates are March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Go to: [www.americancraftspirits.org/convention](http://www.americancraftspirits.org/convention) for more information.) As we do not announce medalists in advance of that banquet, we strongly encourage your attendance.

#### **NEW: AWARD FOR A BEST IN CLASS OR INNOVATION**

If your product succeeds in taking one of the highest awards in any one category, new opportunities to showcase your spirits will be available. You will have right of first refusal to participate in one of the many beverage alcohol events in which ACSA partners.

#### **NOTES:**

- While membership in ACSA *is not* a pre-requisite for entering the competition, to enter your spirits you must be *eligible* for voting membership as defined by ACSA.<sup>i</sup>

- **ALL** products must have a valid COLA from TTB. We reserve the right to request a copy of your COLA should there be a question as to an individual submission. Each spirit must have received formal approval for the “fanciful name” with a corresponding COLA by the date of judging or that spirit will be ineligible for evaluation.
- You must identify whether your spirit is *Third Party* (made using a base spirit distilled off-site) or *Made from Scratch* (distilled on premise). You may classify a spirit as *other* or with some specific identifier. If your product is a blend of *Third-Party* distillate and *Made from Scratch* distillate, please classify this as *other* and note the blend. The Judging Board reserves the right to re-classify a submitted spirit based on its professional judgment.

## ***PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS***

### **ENTRY FEE:**

Members:

Early Bird Submitted by 09/2/19 - \$200 per spirit per category

After 09/2/19 until 10/4/19 - \$250 per spirit per category

Late Riser Fee After 10/4/19 - \$275 per spirit per category

Non-Members:

Early Bird Submitted by 09/2/19 - \$300 per spirit per category

After 09/2/19 until 10/4/19 - \$350 per spirit per category

Late Riser Fee After 10/4/19 - \$375 per spirit per category

Payment can be made by credit or debit card at time of registration of spirits.

## ***SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS***

Please send two 750 ml bottles (or the equivalent) of each spirit entered.

## **SPIRIT SHIPMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:**

**CARDINAL SPIRITS  
% JEFF WUSLICH  
922 S MORTON ST  
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47403**

## **SHIPMENTS MUST BE MARKED: "SAMPLES FOR LAB USE ONLY"**

Please use a rubber band to attach a copy of the SPIRIT ENTRY PACKING SLIP to each of the bottles entered. This will ensure that we inventory your entry accurately. Please **DO NOT** use Styrofoam peanuts for packing your spirits. Use Fed Ex or UPS for shipping. **DO NOT USE the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.**

## ***DISCLAIMER***

All products submitted will be considered property of the American Craft Spirits Association. The Judging Board retains the right not to award a medal, if, in its professional consensus, no medal is deserved in a specific category. Neither ACSA nor Cardinal Spirits will accept responsibility for entries damaged or lost in shipment.

## **QUESTIONS?**

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Margie A.S. Lehrman - [margie@americancraftspirits.org](mailto:margie@americancraftspirits.org) - (202) 669-3661

Maggie Campbell – [maggie@privateerrum.com](mailto:maggie@privateerrum.com) – (857) 319-5316

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<sup>i</sup> Membership in ACSA is open to anyone, although Voting Members must be independent licensed distillers with a valid DSP, subscribe to ACSA's Code of Ethics, have more than a 75% equity stake and operational control of the DSP, and annually produce fewer than 750,000 proof gallons removed from bond (the amount on which excise taxes are paid). In case terms, 750,000 proof gallons is 315,451 9-liter cases (12 750 ml bottles) of 100 proof spirit. A DSP may not be a Voting Member if another producer of

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distilled spirits whose combined annual production of distilled spirits from all sources exceeds 750,000 proof gallons removed from bond has more than 25% equity stake and has operating control control over the DSP. "Operating control" for purposes of this Section means access to and management of the distillery operations. .