



## 2023 ACSA JUDGING OF CRAFT SPIRITS COMPETITION

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ACSA is the only 501(c)(6) national trade group representing craft producers in the U.S. and announces the opening of the refreshed Annual Judging of Craft Spirits. The competition will take place on January 9th & 10th, 2024 at Ironton Distillery & Craffhouse in Denver, CO.

#### WELCOME

We are pleased you are considering submitting your spirits in this newly refreshed competition. How do your products measure against other spirits in the same categories? Find out by entering your spirits now.

#### INNOVATION AWARD

You may produce innovative, remarkable spirits not commonly associated with a flavor profile in that spirits category. You may be 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 expanded our award structure. In addition to Best of Class for each category, we also will present this Innovation Award.

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

The categories of Brandy, Gin, Rum, Specialty Spirits, Ready to Drink Cocktails (RTDs), Vodka, and Whiskey (including Bourbon) will be judged.

- **Judging Chairs:** Colton Weinstein (Corsair Distillery) and Jeff Wuslich (Cardinal Spirits)
- **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 at the 11th Annual ACSA Distillers’ Convention and Vendor Trade Show.

Go to [www.americancraftspirits.org/convention](http://www.americancraftspirits.org/convention) for more information. As we do not announce medalists in advance of that Spirits Awards event, we strongly encourage your attendance at our convention.

# American CRAFT SPIRITS ASSOCIATION

## NOTES

- While membership in ACSA *is not* a prerequisite for entering the competition, to enter your spirits you must be *eligible* for voting membership as defined by ACSA.<sup>1</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 Chairs reserve the right to reclassify a submitted spirit based on its professional judgment.

## ENTRY FEES & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

ACSA Members General Fee (Cut off 12/1/23): \$275 per entry

ACSA Members Late Riser (Cut off 12/22/23): \$300 per entry

Non-Members General Fee (Cut off 12/1/23): \$375 per entry

Non-Members Late Riser (Cut off 12/22/23): \$400 per entry

Payment can be made by credit or debit card at time of registration of spirits on ACSA's website:  
<https://americancraftspirits.org/programs/judging/>

## DEADLINES

Registration Deadline: 12/22/23 (5pm est)

Receiving Deadline: ~~12/28/23~~ Extended to 1/4/24

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<sup>1</sup> To be eligible for ACSA membership as a voting member (as opposed to an affiliate member) you MUST be a craft distiller holding a valid DSP, produce fewer than 750,000 proof gallons removed from bond, subscribe to ACSA's Code of Ethics, and no more than 50% of the DSP is owned (directly or indirectly) by a producer of distilled spirits whose combined annual production of distilled spirits from all sources exceeds 750,000 proof gallons removed from bond.

# American CRAFT SPIRITS ASSOCIATION

## SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS (IMPORTANT: CRITICAL YOU FOLLOW THESE SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS)

To remain compliant with Colorado regulations, you must follow these procedures:

**IF ALREADY DISTRIBUTED WITHIN COLORADO, spirits should be delivered via you (if self distribution applies) or your distributor.**

Send two 750 ml bottles (or the equivalent) of each spirit entered or eight 12 oz cans/bottles (or the equivalent volume) for any RTD submissions.

Your **wholesaler** should deliver to:

Ironton Distillery & Craffhouse  
3636 Chestnut Pl, Denver, CO 80216.

The box should denote: "For Sample and Lab Use Only".

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. **DO NOT USE STYROFOAM PEANUTS NOR TAPE PACKAGING SLIPS WHEN SHIPPING YOUR SPIRITS.**

**IF NOT DISTRIBUTED IN COLORADO, we've found a way for you to compete. Working with Sojourner Imports and LibDib (partners), your spirits can/will be delivered.**

You are required to use FedEx and thus must have a Shippers Agreement in place. If you currently lack this agreement, go to [FedEx Shippers Agreement to enroll immediately upon registration of your spirits.](#)

ACSA will notify our partners. You will then receive, courtesy of LibDib, mailing labels for FedEx.

Communication: Rachel Minor Katona, the Senior Portfolio Manager, [rachel.minor@libdib.com](mailto:rachel.minor@libdib.com), will be the point of contact for coordinating label distribution. Reach out to her for any shipping questions.

## **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, LibDib nor Ironton will accept responsibility for entries damaged or lost in shipment.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please email all questions and inquiries to [membership@americancraftspirits.org](mailto:membership@americancraftspirits.org).