



# 2019 Entry Handbook



The purpose of the California Craft Spirits Competition (CCSC) is to help promote the craft distillers that are producing the finest quality artisan spirits inside and outside of California and to give participating distillers valuable feedback on the quality and process of their spirits. This competition is produced and managed by the California Mid-State Fair. <https://centralcoastwinecomp.com/craft-spirits/>

Competition Director – Stacie Jacob/Solterra Strategies, Paso Robles, CA

Chief Judge – Tim McDonald, Napa, CA

Lead Organization - California Mid-State Fair, Michael Bradley, CEO

## GENERAL RULES

1. Open to commercially licensed spirits producers in California with valid DSP permit and/or distributors. All spirits must be entered with permission of the brand owners. All spirits must conform to federal TTB and state ABC regulations and standards of identity and be currently produced in commercial quantities.
2. The competition also offers a separate division with all the same rules, regulations and schedule to producers outside of California. Entrants must designate California or outside California (Invitational) at time of registration. This Invitational will have a separate set of awards from the California division.
3. All entries must be submitted with a current APPROVED COLA registration. Categories that are not recognized by the TTB or not in approved TTB size formats will be automatically removed from the competition.
4. Each entry to consist of (2) 750ml or (2) 375ml of each spirit to be entered.
5. Do not ship the spirits without copies of the necessary COLAs from TTB.  
DSP- Distilled Spirits Plants  
COLA- Certificate of Label Approval
6. All entries must be registered through the official online registration: <http://cmsfs.fairmanager.com> and must reach the Fair office on or before the entry closing, Friday June 7, 2019
7. After an entry is submitted, the entry fee will not be refunded.
8. The judge's decision is final and determines all awards.
9. The same spirit (although marketed under different labels) may not be entered in more than one category. However, a distillery may submit multiple entries in the same category.
10. Classes may be consolidated or divided if entries warrant. Spirits will be judged in the division/class in which they were entered. The coordinator may transfer an entry if it is determined to be more appropriate in another class.
11. Any spirit delivered by mail, freight, or express must be prepaid. No entry will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid. All entries become the property of the competition.
12. The CCSC, management and staff are not responsible for errors in entries. No producer shall be entitled to an award for which has been disallowed on the basis of the producer's error.
13. Distilleries/ Entries found in violation of rules or ethical practices will forfeit awards and other privileges deemed appropriate by the California Craft Spirits Competition Management and the Chief Judge.
14. Spirits entered must be available for commercial sale.
15. **Please identify in large legible letters, the name of the distillery on the outside of each case. The outside of each case is also to be labeled CCSC. No spirits will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid. Attach Packing List to outside of case highlighting specific entries inside.**
16. This competition will adhere to the State Rules of the California Department of Food & Agriculture Fairs & Expositions Branch. [State Rules for California Fairs](#)

**\*NEW\***

STARTING IN 2019 ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE SENT OR DELIVERED WITH PACKING LIST ATTACHED TO OUTSIDE OF CASE TO PACK n' SHIP DIRECT AND NOT TO THE PASO ROBLES EVENT CENTER.

**PACK n' SHIP**  
**DIRECT**

**Pack n' Ship Direct**  
**C/O Jonathan Greer**  
**6305 Buena Vista Drive #104**  
**Paso Robles, CA 93446**  
**(805)227-7117**

EARLY BIRD ONLINE REGISTRATION TILL FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019

ENTRY FEE: \$80 PER SPIRIT

LAST CALL ONLINE REGISTRATION TILL FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

ENTRY FEE: \$90 PER SPIRIT

Enter on-line at <http://cmsfs.fairmanager.com/> Entry fees are non-refundable.

PHYSICAL SPIRIT ENTRIES RECEIVED: THURSDAY, MAY 30 ~ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

All Spirits Must be Received No Later than 4:00pm, June 12, 2019

**\*NEW\* Shipping/Deliveries: Pack n' Ship Direct**

**C/O Jonathan Greer**

**6305 Buena Vista Drive #104**

**Paso Robles, CA 93446**

**(805)227-7117**

**Division 2002 - California - Spirits Made in California**

**Division 2003 - Invitational - Spirits Made Outside of California**

**Classes**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bourbon                           | 32. Other Liqueurs   |
| 2. Corn Whiskey                      | 33. Aged Grape Brandy  |
| 3. Flavored Whiskey                  | 34. Aged Fruit Brandy  |
| 4. Hopped Whiskey                    | 35. Applejack  |
| 5. Rye Whiskey                       | 36. Armagnac   |
| 6. Single Malt Whiskey               | 37. Calvados   |
| 7. Smoked Whiskey                    | 38. Cognac   |
| 8. Wheat Whiskey                     | 39. Other Brandy   |
| 9. Whiskey Blends                    | 40. Unaged Grape Brandy  |
| 10. Whiskey Mixed grains/Other Base  | 41. Unaged Fruit Brandy  |
| 11. White Whiskey                    | 42. Aged Gin (Barrel)  |
| 12. Flavored Moonshine               | 43. Classic Gin  |
| 13. Moonshine (Bourbon Mash)         | 44. Compound Gin   |
| 14. Moonshine (Corn Mash)            | 45. Contemporary Gin (including New Western & American Dry)  |
| 15. Moonshine (Other Mash)           | 46. Cordial gin  |
| 16. Sugarshine                       | 47. Genever  |
| 17. Flavored Vodka                   | 48. Old Tom Gin  |
| 18. Vodka (unflavored)               | 49. Absinthe   |
| 19. Aged Agave Spirits               | 50. Aquavit  |
| 20. Unaged Agave Spirit              | 51. Bier Schnapps  |
| 21. Aged Rum                         | 52. Fortified Wine   |
| 22. Flavored Rum                     | 53. Vermouth   |
| 23. Overproof Rum                    | 54. Amaro  |
| 24. Spiced Rum                       | 55. Barrel-Aged Cocktails  |
| 25. Unaged Rum                       | 56. Bitters (digestif and aperitif)  |
| 26. Navy-Style Rum                   | 57. Tinctures (non-potable bitters, aromatic bitters, citrus bitters, exotic bitters, fruit/vegetable) |
| 27. Fruit Liqueurs                   | 58. Schnapps   |
| 28. Coffee Liqueurs                  | 59. Misc. Spirits  |
| 29. Cream Liqueurs                   |  |
| 30. Herbal/Botanical/Spiced Liqueurs |  |
| 31. Nut Liqueurs                     |  |

## MEDALS (AWARDS)

The judges for the wine competition will be those of the spirits competition. The Judges shall award all medals. Spirits will be considered for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in their respective classes as well as “Best of Class” and “Best of Show.” “Best of Class” awards will be awarded to one spirit from among the gold medal winners in each class to spirits of exceptional merit. The decisions set forth by the Judges will be final.

## California Craft Spirits Competition Entry Checklist

- Complete the online registration. <http://cmsfs.fairmanager.com/>
- Be sure to provide individuals name, title, and phone number to be contacted in case there are any questions, errors, or shipping problems.
- Early Bird Online Entry Registration Due by Friday, May 31, 2019 \$80 per Entry
- Last Call Online Entry Registration Due by Friday, June 7, 2019 \$90 per Entry  
Entry fees are non-refundable.
- Physical Entries will be accepted between dates of Thursday, May 30 ~ Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
Spirits Must be Received No Later than 4:00pm, June 12, 2019

### **\*NEW\* Shipping/Delivery Instructions:**

**Pack n' Ship Direct  
C/O Jonathan Greer  
6305 Buena Vista Drive #104  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
(805)227-7117**

**Be sure to include (2) 750ml or (2) 375ml bottles of each spirit entry.  
Make sure to attach Packing List to outside of case highlighting the specific entries inside.**

For Registration questions, please contact:

California Mid-State Fair  
[exhibits@midstatefair.com](mailto:exhibits@midstatefair.com)  
(805) 239-0655

For Media related or other questions, please contact:

Solterra Strategies  
Stacie Jacob  
[sjacob@solterrastrategies.com](mailto:sjacob@solterrastrategies.com)  
(805)-591-4884

## **Food & Beverage Packaging Competition**

The Food & Packaging Competition evaluates the creativity, style, graphic design, and overall effectiveness of the packaging design of the entry. Entries will be judged based off the execution and impact of the design on the product.

Entry in this competition is automatic by entry into the California Craft Spirits Competition and requires no additional fee or entry information.