



2025 WLAC Summary of Rule Changes

2024 Rule	2025 Rule	Reason for Change	Impact on Competition Bodies
1.8.1 Competitor Registration Form			
Competitors must complete the WLAC Competitor Registration Form online at www.worldcoffeeroasting.org no less than 6 weeks prior to the WCTC Event. This form includes a space to upload a scanned copy of the required valid passport or other accepted credentials (as described in Section 1.3.4 "Nationality"). Approved Competition Body Champions will receive confirmation by email in approximately 2 weeks after receipt of all required registration documentation.	Competitors must complete the WLAC Competitor Registration Form which will be sent to Competition Body Champions directly via email no less than 6 weeks prior to the WCC Event. This form includes a space to upload a scanned copy of the required valid passport or other accepted credentials (as described in the "Nationality" section). Approved Competition Body Champions will receive confirmation by email in approximately 2 weeks after receipt of all required registration documentation. For any queries about competitor registration, these can be submitted to info@worldcoffeeevents.org .	The World Competition registration form will be sent directly to Competition Body Champions via email.	N/A
2.2.1 Preliminary Round			
A. Each competitor will be given 13 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 5 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 8 minutes Competition/Performance Time. B. Competitors are required to make 4 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 matching free-pour lattes, ii. 2 matching designer pattern lattes.	A. Each competitor will be given 11 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 3 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 8 minutes Competition/Performance Time. B. Competitors are required to make 4 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 matching free-pour lattes, ii. 2 matching designer pattern lattes. C. If a semi-automatic espresso machine and a separate grinder are provided, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes, instead of 3.	The Preparation Time with fully-automatic espresso machines has been decreased as the grinder and espresso setting cannot be adjusted by the competitors. When a semi-automatic machine is used, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes.	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.
2.2.2 Semi-Finals Round			
A. Each competitor will be given 15 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 5 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 10 minutes Competition/Performance Time.	A. Each competitor will be given 13 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 3 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 10 minutes Competition/Performance Time.	The Preparation Time with fully-automatic espresso machines has been decreased as the grinder and espresso setting	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.

B. Competitors are required to make 6 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 sets of matching free-pour lattes (4 beverages total), ii. 2 matching free-pour macchiatos.	B. Competitors are required to make 6 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 sets of matching free-pour lattes (4 beverages total), ii. 2 matching free-pour macchiatos. C. If a semi-automatic espresso machine and a separate grinder are provided, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes, instead of 3.	cannot be adjusted by the competitors. When a semi-automatic machine is used, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes.	
2.2.3 Finals Round			
A. Each competitor will be given 16 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 5 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 11 minutes Competition/Performance Time. B. Competitors are required to make 6 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 sets of matching free-pour lattes (4 beverages total), ii. 2 matching designer patter lattes.	A. Each competitor will be given 14 minutes at their assigned station, made up of the following segments: i. 3 minutes Preparation Time, ii. 11 minutes Competition/Performance Time. B. Competitors are required to make 6 total beverages, in the following order: i. 2 sets of matching free-pour lattes (4 beverages total), ii. 2 matching designer patter lattes. C. If a semi-automatic espresso machine and a separate grinder are provided, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes, instead of 3.	The Preparation Time with fully-automatic espresso machines has been decreased as the grinder and espresso setting cannot be adjusted by the competitors. When a semi-automatic machine is used, the Preparation Time will be 5 minutes.	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.
2.4 Use of Provided Milk and Coffee			
Competitors are required to use the coffee and milk provided by the WLAC. Competitors must take unopened milk bottles with them on stage. They may not prepare milk offstage. Competitors can prepare their milk from the unopened milk bottles during preparation time.	Competitors are required to use the coffee and milk provided by the WLAC. Competitors must take unopened milk bottles with them on stage. They may not prepare milk offstage. Competitors can prepare their milk from the unopened milk bottles during preparation time. WCC will communicate with competitors no longer than 4 weeks prior to the start of the competition the compulsory usage of the provided milk.	Added for clarity.	N/A
2.5.2 Beverage Definitions			
N/A	A. For the purpose of the WLAC, a latte is defined as a beverage combining espresso and steamed milk served in the provided latte cup. A macchiato is defined as a beverage combining espresso and	A definition of both latte and macchiato has been added to the rules.	N/A

	steamed milk served in the provided espresso macchiato cup.		
4.2 Grinder			
Competitors must use the provided official WLAC grinder during their performance. The grinder can be a stand-alone grinder, or part of a fully-automatic espresso machine. Competitors can adjust the grinding size when provided with a stand-alone grinder. The stand-alone grinders will be set to an approximate setting, but it is up to the barista to fine-tune this setting to their personal requirements within the 5 minutes preparation time. In the case of a fully-automatic espresso machine that includes an internal grinder being provided, each machine will be set to the same settings for all stations by the sponsor. It is up to the competitor to check the setting within their preparation time.	Competitors must use the provided official WLAC grinder during their performance. The grinder can be a stand-alone grinder, or part of a fully-automatic espresso machine. Competitors can adjust the grinding size when provided with a stand-alone grinder. The stand-alone grinders will be set to an approximate setting, but it is up to the barista to fine-tune this setting to their personal requirements within the 5 minutes preparation time. In the case of a fully-automatic espresso machine that includes an internal grinder being provided, each machine will be set to the same settings for all stations by the sponsor. Competitors are not allowed to adjust or alter the grind size and espresso settings. It is up to the competitor to check the setting within their preparation time.	Added for clarity.	N/A
4.5 Additional Equipment			
(...) No additional electrical equipment or provision is allowed except for battery-powered items. Competitors may bring as many battery-powered items as they would like, except items that are provided as sponsored equipment by WCE. However, competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment operates properly.	(...) No additional electrical equipment or provision is allowed except for battery-powered items (i.e. scales, personal timers, etc.). Competitors may bring as many battery-powered items as they would like, except items that are provided as sponsored equipment by WCC. However, competitors are responsible for ensuring their equipment operates properly.	Added for clarity.	N/A
4.6 Provided Equipment and Supplies			
Each competitor's stage station will be equipped with the following: A. Machine table (For espresso machine and grinder approximately L: 1.80m-2.0m W: 0.80m-1.0m H: 0.90m	Each competitor's stage station will be equipped with the following: A. Machine table (For espresso machine and grinder approximately L: 1.80m-2.0m W: 0.80m-1.0m H: 0.75-0.90m	The tables' height is now a range, like all other dimensions. Cups have been added in the list of provided supplies.	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.

B. Presentation table (Judges' table) approximately L: 1.80m-2.0m W: 0.60-0.80m H: 0.90m C. Espresso machine D. Grinder (stand-alone or included in a fully-automatic espresso machine) (...)	B. Presentation table (Judges' table) approximately L: 1.80m-2.0m W: 0.60-0.80m H: 0.75-0.90m C. Espresso machine D. Grinder (stand-alone or included in a fully-automatic espresso machine) E. Latte and macchiato cups (...)		
8.2 Forgotten Accessories			
If a competitor has forgotten some of their equipment and/or accessories during their preparation time, the competitor may exit the stage to retrieve the missing items; however, the preparation time will not be stopped.	If a competitor has forgotten some of their equipment and/or accessories during their preparation time, they must inform the WLAC stage manager/Head Runner that they have forgotten an item(s) offstage and the competitor may exit the stage to retrieve the missing items themselves; however, their preparation time will not be stopped.	Updated for clarity.	N/A
13.1 Best Practice			
The judge will determine this score based on the competitor's hygiene and cleanliness throughout their entire presentation. Cleaning while working will help the competitor's score. Competitor will receive low score if they: A. Use a non-dedicated cloth to clean a steam wand (using it for some other purpose other than using it to clean a steam wand). B. Do something that is not sanitary or food safe with a cloth (e.g., touching it to the face or mouth, etc.). C. Holding the cups by the rim or edge of the cup. D. Use a cloth once it has touched the floor. The numeric impression scale 0-3 multiplied by 3 will be used in this category.	The judge will determine this score based on the competitor's hygiene and cleanliness throughout their entire presentation. Cleaning while working will help the competitor's score. Competitor will receive low score if they: A. Use a non-dedicated cloth to clean a steam wand (using it for some other purpose other than using it to clean a steam wand). B. Do something that is not sanitary or food safe with a cloth (e.g., touching it to the face or mouth, etc.). C. Holding the cups by the rim or edge of the cup. D. Use a cloth once it has touched the floor. E. Does not clean up drips and spills on the beverages served. The numeric impression scale 0-3 multiplied by 3 will be used in this category.	Cleaning drips and spills has been added in the "Best Practice" evaluation.	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.
15.1 Judging/Scoring Issues at the World Coffee Championships			
Most scorekeeping questions will be answered during competitor debrief. If a competitor objects to the scores given by one or more judges, the competitor can meet with their head judge during the competitor	Scorekeeping questions will be answered by the judging team during competitor debrief. If a competitor has further questions, the head judge and/or Judge Operation Lead (JOL) will be consulted.	The onsite procedure for judging or scoring issues has been updated slightly to	N/A.

debriefing to explain their protest. If the head judge is unavailable, the competitor may discuss with the Judge Operations Lead onsite. If the issue is not solved, the competitor may protest in writing to WCE (see Appeals below). This will be reviewed by judge leadership and the WCC Competition Strategic Committee. They will make a decision and a representative of the WCC Competition Strategic Committee will inform the competitor of the decision. If in the unlikely event that the head judge or any other WLAC personnel discovers or suspects potential dishonest behavior by a WLAC judge during a competitor's evaluation, then the following will apply: • The head judge will request the return of all applicable scoresheets from the official scorekeeper. • The head judge will meet with the WLAC judge(s), WCC Staff, and WCC Competition Strategic Committee Chair(s) to evaluate the situation. • The WCC Staff and WCC Competition Strategic Committee Chair(s) will then rule upon the matter in a closed meeting. • If the matter of dishonesty is extensive, the WCC Competition Strategic Committee Chair(s) has the power to rule that the WLAC judge will be excluded from judging in any future WLAC sanctioned competitions.	If the competitor feels that there has been an error that is unresolved, they may protest in writing (see Appeals section below). The appeal will be reviewed by judge leadership, WCC staff, and the WCC Competition Strategic Committee (CSC) and a representative of the WCC will inform the competitor of the decision. If in the unlikely event that the head judge or any other WLAC personnel discovers or suspects potential dishonest behavior by a WLAC judge during a competitor's evaluation, then the following will apply: • The head judge will request the return of all applicable scoresheets from the official scorekeeper. • The head judge will meet with the WLAC judge(s), WCC staff, and WCC CSC Chair(s) to evaluate the situation. • The WCC staff and WCC CSC Chair(s) will then evaluate the situation in a closed meeting. • If the matter of dishonesty is extensive, the WCC CSC Chair(s) has the power to rule that the WLAC judge will be excluded from judging in any future WLAC sanctioned competitions.	better reflect current practices.	
15.2 Other Issues at the World Coffee Championships			
If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding the WLAC during the competition, the competitor should contact the WLAC event organizer. The event organizer will then determine whether the issue can be resolved on-site at the WLAC, or whether the issue will require a written appeal following the WLAC. If the WLAC event organizer decides that the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site at the WLAC, the WLAC event organizer will contact the involved party or parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor's issue and/or protest will be discussed,	If a competitor has an issue regarding the WLAC during the competition (e.g. scheduling, logistics, etc.), the competitor should contact the WCC staff onsite. The WCC staff will make every effort to resolve the issue on-site at the WLAC. The WCC staff will contact all involved parties. The competitor's issue will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the WCC staff team, WCC JOL and/or WCC CSC. The WCC staff will inform the competitor of the decision.	The onsite procedure for other issues has been updated slightly to better reflect current practices.	N/A

and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the WLAC event organizer and the designated onsite representative of the WCE Judge Operations Lead. The WLAC event organizer will inform the competitor of the decision.			
15.3 Appeals at the World Coffee Championships			
If a person does not agree with a decision, they may appeal the decision in writing to the WCC Competition Strategic Committee. All decisions made by the committee are final. The appeal letter must include the following: • Name • Date • A clear and concise statement of the complaint • Date and time references (if applicable) • Comments and suggested solution • Party/Parties involved • Contact information Any written protests/appeals omitting this information will not be considered. All persons must submit their written complaint or appeal to the WLAC Event Manager via email to info@worldcoffeeevents.org within 24 hours of the incident.	If a person does not agree with a decision, they may appeal the decision in writing to the WCC CSC. All decisions made by the committee are final. The appeal letter must include the following: • Name • Date • A clear and concise statement of the complaint • Date and time references (if applicable) • Comments and suggested solution • Party/Parties involved • Contact information Any written appeals omitting this information will not be considered. All persons must submit their written complaint or appeal through the complaint form available on the website at https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations within 24 hours of the incident. The complaint will be received by the WCC team and shared with the WCC CSC.	A new form has been created to submit an appeal at the WCC.	N/A
16.1 Highlighting Rule Variations for Competition Bodies			
• Rounds/Competition Procedure: (...) ○ In the case of option 2, Competition Bodies competitors will be scored by 2 visual judges and 1 technical judge. A non-scoring head judge will also be present on stage in this case. The technical judge evaluation procedure is outlined in the "Technical Evaluation Procedure" section below.	• Rounds/Competition Procedure: (...) ○ In the case of option 2, Competition Bodies can choose to add a technical judge to the judging team. The technical judge evaluation procedure is outlined in the "Technical Evaluation Procedure" section below. In this case, the technical evaluation will be added to the 2 visual judges scores and the head judge score.	Competition Bodies can choose to have a technical judge when providing a semi-automatic espresso machine.	Competitions Bodies may take up these changes to the 2025 season or wait until the 2026 season.

N/A	• Rules and Regulations translation: Competition Bodies may offer a translation of this document. However, to resolve any disputes, the official World Latte Art Championship Rules and Regulations will be used. Competition Bodies cannot modify rules related to judging and evaluation.	Added for clarity.	Competition Bodies must take up these changes in the current season.
• Competitor Minimum: Competition Bodies Championships must have a minimum of 6 competitors. If the minimum of 6 competitors is not reached, Competition Bodies must contact their Regional Community Director at least 2 weeks before the scheduled competition.	• Competitor Minimum: Competition Bodies Championships must have a minimum of 6 competitors for their final and WCE Sanctioned event. If the minimum of 6 competitors is not reached, Competition Bodies must contact their Partnership Director at least 2 weeks before the scheduled competition.	Added for clarity.	The minimum of 6 competitors must be applied for the final and WCE Sanctioned event.
16.3 Appeals at a Competition Body Event			
If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding their Competition Body Championship during the event, the first step should be to contact the event organizer and/or WCC Representative on site. All problems should be attempted to be resolved as soon as possible. On-site solutions are the most effective and appropriate. Appeals made after the competition's end are more difficult to effectively arbitrate. If the event organizer decides the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site, the event organizer will contact the involved party or parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor's issue and/or protest will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the event organizer and the designated onsite WCC Representative. The event organizer and/or WCC Rep will inform the competitor of the decision. If the issue requires a written appeal, this should be made directly to the Competition Body and WCC Representative via email within 24 hours of the incident. If the appeal is logistics-related, the CB is fully responsible for the investigation and any arbitration if applicable. If the appeal is judge or rules related, the WCC Representative may investigate the	If a competitor has an issue or protest to make regarding their CB Championship during the event, the first step should be to contact the event organizer and/or WCC Representative on site. All problems should be attempted to be resolved as soon as possible. On-site solutions are the most effective and appropriate. Appeals made after the competition's end are more difficult to effectively arbitrate. If the event organizer decides the issue and/or protest can be solved on-site, the event organizer will contact the involved party/parties to ensure fair representation. The competitor's issue and/or protest will be discussed, and a decision will be made jointly, on-site by the event organizer and the designated onsite WCC Representative. The CB event organizer and/or WCC Rep will inform the competitor of the decision. If the competitor wishes to appeal the decision, they should utilize the complaint form available on the website at https://wcc.coffee/rules-regulations within 24 hours of the incident. The complaint will be sent directly to the CB and the WCC Rep indicated in the submission. If the appeal is logistics-related, the CB is fully responsible for the investigation and any arbitration, if applicable. The WCC Rep must	CB competitors can submit appeals using the same form used for WCC. The information of the appeal will be sent directly to the CB and the WCC Rep indicated. The WCC Rep must always participate in the investigation and the CB is the primary contact for all issues with competitors.	Competition Bodies must take up these changes in the current season.

issue and provide a suggested arbitration. The CB and WCC Rep must report all written appeals to the WCC team within 24 hours of receipt. However, WCE does not directly certify or manage Competition Body judges or volunteers, and so cannot arbitrate their actions. Appeals from CB events may take additional time to address; the person submitting the appeal should expect to see a resolution within 30 days.	participate in this process by consulting on the appeal. If the appeal is judge or rules related, the WCC Rep will investigate the issue and provide a suggested arbitration to the CB. The CB is always responsible for responding to the complaint in written form and is considered the primary contact for complaints at CB events. The CB and WCC Rep must report all written appeals to the WCC staff within 24 hours of receipt. However, WCC staff does not directly certify or manage Competition Body judges or volunteers, and so cannot arbitrate their actions. Appeals from CB events may take additional time to address; the person submitting the appeal should expect to see a resolution within 30 days.		
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