



**The aim of the competition is to draw on the strengths
of events worldwide and address
shortcomings, thereby creating a fair, just and open
platform for the event.**

2025 PCA Cup Taster Competition

Official Rules and Regulation

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1. Competition system explanation

The competition is divided into three stages: preliminary, semi-final and final. The competition format is triangular cupping, which includes but is not limited to processing method, roasting degree, water quality, extraction, defects and other groups. Each triangular cupping consists of 3 cups of coffee, two of which are the same coffee liquid. Competitors need to use their sensory skills to distinguish 1 different cup of coffee and push it to the confirmation area. The result cannot be changed after the competition time is up.

Preliminary round:

All competitors must complete 6 sets of triangle cupping within 5 minutes. The top 16 winners of the preliminary round will enter the semi-final stage.

Semi-finals:

The 16 competitors must complete 6 sets of triangle cup tests within 5 minutes. The top 8 competitors will advance to the finals.

Finals:

Competitors must complete 8 sets of triangle cup tests within 7 minutes.

Winners will be awarded the champion, runner-up, and third place

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2. Cup measurement parameters

The coffee liquid is brewed in a standard Americano coffee machine. The powder–water ratio will be 1:15–1:18, the brewing temperature will be 90–96 degrees Celsius (the temperature needs to be adjusted according to the altitude), and the cooking time is 4–6 minutes. The brewed coffee liquid will be placed in a thermos pot to keep warm at 80–85 degrees Celsius.

Water usage standard: clean, fresh, colorless and tasteless, TDS (totally soluble solid substance): 50–175mg/L

The specifications of the competition cup are the same, and the standard is 200 ml.

The amount of coffee provided by the organizer must be 150 ml per serving.

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3. Pre-match preparation

Before the start of the competition, the organizing committee will hold a briefing for the competitors. The organizer will organize the contestants to sign in and draw lots for the order of the preliminary round, and explain the schedule of the day and the venue configuration. Participants can resolve their concerns and doubts at the briefing. Competitors must arrive at the competition site half an hour before the official start of the competition. If the competitors do not inform the organizer of the competition in advance and fail to attend the contestant briefing, the organizer will have the right to disqualify the contestants.

The competition venue will set up 2–4 competition tables according to the on–site environment, and each competition table has been numbered.

After the preliminary and semi–finals, there will be a formal announcement of the list of qualified competitors. All competitors must participate in this event. Competitors who successfully advance to the semi–finals and finals will go on stage again to draw lots to determine the subsequent order of appearance.

All competitors, coaches, and assistants are not allowed to enter the backstage's coffee preparation area throughout the competition. If this rule is violated, the competitor will be disqualified.

4. Competition Details

- (1) Before the official starts, the host will introduce the competitors of this round. The competitors must stay one meter away from the stage and wait for the host to announce the start of the competition before they can approach the stage to start their round.
- (2) The competition time for the preliminary round is 5 minutes. For the semi-final, the competition time is 5 minutes. And the final round's competition time is 7 minutes. Any time overtime of one second will be considered as disqualification.
- (3) Before the competition begins, the competitor will signal to the judges that they are ready, and the judge or host will press the official timer's button. After confirming that all answers are completed, the competitor need to press the official timer's button by themselves and step back and raise one hand to signal. The host will remind the competition time as 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 30 seconds.
- (4) To avoid electronic failure or unexpected situations of the timer, the timekeeper will start timing at the same time as the competitors to ensure the accuracy of the competitors' score.
- (5) The competitor shall not lift the cupping bowl off the table during the entire competition. If any group of cupping bowl is lifted off, the score of this group will be deemed invalid.
- (6) The cupping coffee will be placed in front of the competitor at the same time and with consistency, but the positions of each group of three cups must be configured in a different order to avoid the same results.
- (7) The competitors may bring their own spit cups or water cups, or use the utensils provided by the competition sponsors, including but not limited to spit cups and water cups. The water cups should be placed on the competition table during the competition; there is a bucket under each competition table for the competitors to dump waste liquid.

- (8) After the results of each round are announced, the official recorder will be responsible for recording the competitor's name, completion time, total number of the correct choices, ranking and other results on the scoreboard for all competitors to confirm and view.

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5. Judges authority and responsibilities

- (1) Evaluate all coffee sample which will be used during the competition before the competition starts.
- (2) Debrief, share knowledges or techniques about coffee and answer questions with competitors to help them improve their skills after the competition results are announced

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6. Promotion rules

In each stage, players will be ranked according to the number of correct choices in order of highest and lowest. If the number of correct choices is the same, the one with the shorter time will get the higher rank. If the number of correct choices and time are the same, both players will be promoted to the next stage.