CHIP - Portuguese International Mead Competition

Official Regulations

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1. Organisers

CHIP – *Competição de Hidromel International Portuguesa* – is organised in Portugal by Tiago Morais, Gonçalo Sousa and Guilherme Silva (hereinafter referred to as “the Organisers”).

The Organisers are responsible for the overall coordination of the competition, including entry administration, appointment of judges, and supervision of the evaluation process.

The Organisers reserve the right to interpret these regulations and to introduce necessary adjustments for operational reasons or unforeseen circumstances.

Decisions of the Organisers are final.

2. Competition Structure

CHIP is an event composed of two autonomous and independent competitions:

- **CHIP Amadora** – for non-commercial meads.
- **CHIP Profissional** – for professionally produced meads.

Each competition is evaluated and ranked independently.

Entries must be submitted to the correct competition, and the same entry may not compete in both.

3. Eligibility

3.1 CHIP Amadora

CHIP Amadora is open to individuals producing mead in non-professional conditions.

Eligible participants are persons who are not legally registered as producers authorised to sell mead.

The following may not compete in *CHIP Amadora*:

- professionally registered entities authorised to produce and sell mead;
- meads produced under a professional licence or intended for commercial sale.

3.2 CHIP Profissional

CHIP Profissional is open to meads produced by legally registered entities authorised to sell mead.

Entries must be submitted by the producing entity responsible for the mead.

Meads produced exclusively in domestic conditions without legal professional registration may not compete in *CHIP Profissional*.

3.3 Production of the Entry

Entries must have been produced by the entrant or by the entity they represent.

3.4 General Provisions

Participants must be of legal drinking age in their country of residence.

The Organisers reserve the right to reassign or disqualify entries that do not comply with eligibility criteria.

4. Categories

CHIP categories follow the ***Mead Judging Programme (MJP) Mead Guidelines 2023***, available at:
https://meadjudgingprogramme.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/MEAD-GUIDELINES-2023.pdf

At the time of registration, each entry must declare:

- a main category (M1, M2, M3, or M4);
- a corresponding subcategory in accordance with the MJP Guidelines.

All subcategories defined in the MJP Guidelines are eligible, with the exception of:

- **M4B – Historical Mead**
- **M4D – Honey Spirit**

Historically inspired meads must be entered into the most appropriate regular category.

4.1 Declaration of Attributes

At registration, the main characteristics of the mead must be declared, including:

- sweetness level;
- alcohol strength;
- carbonation level;
- honey varieties used;
- other ingredients.

This information is used to guide sensory evaluation in accordance with the MJP Guidelines.

4.2 Final Category Structure

After registration closes, the Organisers may merge or divide categories and subcategories according to entry numbers, distribution, and judging practicality.

The declaration of a subcategory at registration does not guarantee that it will be judged or awarded as an independent category.

The Organisers may reassign an entry to a more appropriate category where necessary.

5. Entry Limits

Each participant may submit:

- up to **3 entries per subcategory**;
- up to **5 entries per main category (M1, M2, M3 or M4)**.

There is no overall limit on the number of entries per participant, provided the above limits are respected.

Example: a participant may submit 3 entries in subcategory M2A and 2 in M2B (a total of 5 in category M2), but may not submit 3 in M2A and 3 in M2B, as this would exceed the maximum of 5 entries within the main category.

If an entry exceeds the established limits, the Organisers may refuse the excess entries, taking registration order into account.

6. Sample Requirements

Each entry must include:

- a minimum of **2 bottles of 330 ml**;
- or, where smaller bottle formats are used, a sufficient number of bottles to provide a minimum total volume of **660 ml**.

Samples must be shipped in accordance with the instructions provided by the Organisers within the established deadlines.The reception of samples is possible until the 5th of June, 2026.

6.1 Anonymity and Blind Judging

All entries will be coded upon receipt.

Judges will not have access to bottles, labels, or identifying packaging. Only authorised stewards will handle the original containers.

All tastings are conducted blind.

6.2 Custody and Liability

Samples become the property of the Organisers and will not be returned.

The Organisers accept no responsibility for damage or loss occurring during transport, receipt, or storage of samples.

Participants are responsible for complying with all applicable laws regarding the shipment of alcoholic beverages and for any customs duties, taxes, or related charges.

The Organisers accept no responsibility for samples delayed, detained, or seized by customs or other authorities.

7. Judging Procedure

Judging is conducted exclusively through sensory evaluation and follows the methodology of the *Mead Judging Programme* (MJP).

7.1 Round 1 – Scored Evaluation

All entries are evaluated blind by a minimum of **two judges per table**.

Judges agree on a consolidated final score, and one official scoresheet per entry is completed, reflecting the agreed score and consolidated comments.

7.2 Medal Round

The highest-ranked entries from Round 1 advance to the Medal Round, where they are evaluated by direct comparison within their final category, and no scoresheets are produced at this stage.

Medal decisions are based on this comparative evaluation and do not depend solely on the numerical scores obtained in Round 1.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals may be awarded, but may be withheld where, in the opinion of the judges, the quality level does not justify the award.

7.3 Best of Show (BOS)

Only Gold medal winners advance to the *Best of Show* round.

Evaluation is comparative and no numerical scores are assigned.

The Head Judge holds tie-breaking authority where necessary.

Three *Best of Show* awards are granted:

- 1st place – €100
- 2nd place – €50
- 3rd place – €25

CHIP Profissional

One *Best of Show* award is granted.

Decisions of the judging panel are final.

8. Jury

Judging is conducted by a panel of qualified judges, consisting predominantly of *Mead Judging Programme* (MJP) certified judges, and may include invited experienced tasters appointed by the Organisers.

8.1 Conflict of Interest

No judge may evaluate entries:

- of their own authorship;
- from their own company;
- or from entities with which they have a direct professional relationship.

Any potential conflict of interest must be declared to the Head Judge before the evaluation of the relevant category begins.

The Organisers will allocate entries in a manner that preserves impartiality.

9. Final Provisions

Participation in CHIP implies full acceptance of these regulations.

The Organisers reserve the right to introduce necessary adjustments for operational reasons or unforeseen circumstances.

10. Data Protection

Personal data collected within the scope of CHIP is used exclusively for the administration of the competition, communication with participants, and publication of results.

By submitting an entry, the participant consents to the use of their name (or entity name), mead name, category, and any awards obtained for the purpose of public announcement of results.

Data is processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and applicable legislation.

Data will not be used for purposes other than those described above, nor shared with third parties, except where required to comply with legal obligations.