

COTTAGE BEER OLYMPICS

Created by www.thecottagewife.com



What do you do on rainy days or in cooler weather at the cottage? You bring your games inside of course! That's exactly what we did last fall when we had the sister & brother-in-law up one evening for dinner. We decided that we'd have an evening of beer tasting. Brian had the awesome idea to make things interesting and so the **Beer Olympics** was born! (Yes! Of course you can play this outside on a hot day too!)

You will need:

- Beer to sample
- Small sampling cups. You can use glasses too but without rinsing between samples and tracking which glass is whose, it could get kinda weird.
- Score sheet (I've included one here that you can print off!)
- A few of your favorite snacks to munch between samples to "cleanse your palate"
- A pitcher or bucket – just in case you find a sample so awful you can't bring yourself to finish it. Life's too short to drink bad beer.

Here's how it works:

1. Choose your theme. For our first Beer Olympics we chose international brands. You could also choose from local, craft breweries, single brewery, country specific brands etc.
2. Select your beers for sampling. In our case, each person brought two types of beer, one tall-boy each (or the equivalent). You can scale that for more or fewer "judges." For example if you have 8 people, each person brings one type of beer but two tall-boys. That's plenty for sampling without getting plastered.
3. Wrap the cans or bottles in newsprint or other paper to make this a real blind taste test for everyone. (Optional)
4. Select a "responsible" member of the group to keep score and set up your tracking sheet. I've provided one here that you can download or you can create your own.
5. Make sure everyone knows how the game works & understands the scoring system.
6. You'll be sampling one beer at a time. Pour a sample for each person – enough to empty the can – and pass them around.
7. Pretend you're a connoisseur and take a sip!

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This is where the game gets really fun; usually a great conversation ensues as you and your friends comment and score the sample. There's always a great debate and "Really? You like THAT!" comments are plenty. Remember you're judging the beer, not your friends taste!

8. Go around the table and allow each person to give their score. If you have wrapped the cans, this is when you would reveal the label. Record each score on the scoresheet. Our rating system is as follows:

RATING	SCORE	DESCRIPTION
TERRIBLE	1-2	Given this beer at a party I would take a sip, set it down, and slowly walk away.
BAD	3-4	Sunday afternoon at the neighbours I could finish one to be polite.
GOOD	5-6	My brother-in-law's beer fridge would soon be empty but I wouldn't buy it.
GREAT	7-8	A great beer to share with friends and family at my next BBQ.
EXCELLENT	9-10	This beer may be wasted on others; I shall keep it for myself.

9. Repeat the process with the next sample and so on until all samples are finished.
10. Once all scores are recorded, it's time to tally and declare your Gold, Silver & Bronze finalists!

This "game" for four people takes approximately 2.5 hours to enjoy.

See & print the score sheet below!

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COUNTRY	BEER	JUDGES				TOTAL

Example:

COUNTRY	BEER	JUDGES				TOTAL
		Carol	Ruth	Gord	Brian	
Canada	Hockley Dark (returning champion)	9	9	8	8	34
Scotland	Tennent's	8	7	7	7	29