

ACWWA Best of the Best Water Taste Test  
AWWA Best Practices suggestions from the Colorado Section  
Written on September 20, 2013  
Updated on September 16, 2024

### **Official Rules**

Samples are randomly assigned a number, starting with number 1, and will be brought out to the judges in a minimum of three groupings of samples. Judges will score each sample out of 10 points whereby the “best” water is assigned a score of 10, “great” water a score of 5 and “good” water a score of 1. There is no bad water and no half points should be assigned.

At the end of the three rounds of tasting, the judges will confer and tally their scores. The top five samples with the highest scores will go on to the final round of tasting.

During the final tasting round, all samples will be brought out at once. Judges will again assign a score of 1-10 points. Once tasting is completed and the judges are satisfied, they will once again confer and tally scores. The source of the top three water will be revealed for presentation of awards.

### **General Procedure**

3-4 judges acceptable.

Have the judges meet 10 minutes before judging. Emcee should also be present. Request that we prefer they not consume coffee or strongly flavored food before judging.

Use glass glasses and pitchers. Request the conference venue provide three pitchers of their own water at room temperature.

Samples should be kept refrigerated however must be removed at least three hours prior to judging to be at room temperature.

Bottles must be relabeled with numbers. (If necessary, blank sample bottles may be obtained from an approved lab.)

There shall be fresh glasses used for each sample. For each judge there should be one glass for each sample plus one for the conference venue tap water.

Judges shall rinse their mouths with the reference Convention Centre water after each testing. A plate of water crackers (no salt) can be provided to cleanse the palate.

The emcee should announce the judges (get each to provide an entertaining bio perhaps) and talk/interact with the audience between samples.

Volunteers:

- one person pouring
- one person removing empty glasses
- one person scoring

Announce 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. All others tied for 4<sup>th</sup>