



# 2024 WCC Judge Competencies Expectations, Testing Methodology, and Resources

## **About this Document**

The purpose of this document is to provide information on each Judge Competency for every competition. Many competencies are shared across all competitions. The expectation column aims to highlight why the competency is being tested signifying its importance within the judging role, the testing methodology column aims to detail how the competency is being tested during the Judge Certification event, and the resources/practice column details where to find more information about the competency and how to gain more experience or practice to ensure success during the testing.

*Prepared October 2023.*

## Competency Overview & Contents

### 1. [General Competencies](#)

- a. Signs and adheres to the World Coffee Championship (WCC) Judges Code of Conduct.
- b. Coffee Knowledge: Discusses, describes, and recognizes coffee information according to SCA CSP Intermediate level.
- c. Follows and understands current industry trends.
- d. Cooperates with others and supports the success of the WCCs.
- e. Exhibits professional behavior throughout the WCC or National Event.
- f. (WLAC Only: Cooperates with judging Art Bar, as requested.)

### 2. [Sensory Skills](#)

- a. Recognizes and applies “scales of intensity.”
- b. Demonstrates understanding of and uses check-all-that-apply (CATA) lists confidently and accurately.
- c. Demonstrates understanding of and uses hedonic scales fairly and consistently.
- d. Demonstrates understanding of and applies descriptive terms per SCA 2023 olfactory category references.
- e. WBrC (Critical): Recognizes coffee defects and brewing errors.
- f. WCRC (Critical): Recognizes coffee defects and roasting errors.
- g. Demonstrates familiarity with different types of milk and plant-based alternatives in coffee beverages.
- h. (WCIGS Only: Demonstrates familiarity with a range of alcohols.)
- i. (WCIGS Only: Demonstrates familiarity with different types of alcohols in coffee beverages.)

### 3. [Competition Stage Behavior](#)

- a. Follows evaluation protocol or competitor instructions.
- b. Captures key information from the competitor.
- c. Completes scoresheet and assigns scores before leaving the stage.
- d. Prepares to go on stage in a timely manner.
- e. Maintains focus throughout the competitor’s presentation.
- f. Pays attention to the competitor and has appropriate timing.
- g. (WCIGS only: Demonstrates familiarity with a range of bar tools.)
- h. (WLAC only: Demonstrates familiarity with basic latte art techniques, past and present standards and trends, their composition, and the generally perceived level of difficulty.)

### 4. [Scoresheets](#)

- a. Writes rule-based written comments.
- b. Uses comments that support the scores.
- c. Demonstrates ability to use the full range of scoring systems.
- d. Uses legible handwriting and organizes their comments.
- e. Writes scores and comments in appropriate areas.
- f. Write an adequate number of comments.
- g. Cooperates when asked to comment calibrate (if applicable).

### 5. [Deliberation](#)

- a. Adjusts score with Head Judge (when appropriate).
- b. Demonstrates understanding of WCC rules and how to apply them.
- c. Writes sufficient comments on scoresheets before deliberation.
- d. Demonstrates clarity when HJ addresses them and knows which area, scale, or comments should be indicated. Attentive and concise.
- e. Demonstrates adequate deliberation room behavior.

### 6. [Debriefing](#)

- a. Answers questions sufficiently and identifies positives in the competitor’s performance.
- b. Makes comments relevant to the competitor’s performance.
- c. Demonstrates the ability to debrief a competitor using other judges’ scoresheets.
- d. Recognizes the importance of debriefing.
- e. Demonstrates the ability to diffuse tense situations.

### 7. [Technical Skills](#)

- a. Demonstrates the ability to distinguish waste within 0.5 g of coffee and 30 mL of milk variance.
- b. Accurately discusses dosing, tamping, and distribution techniques.
- c. Demonstrates thorough understanding of the technical scoresheet and how to apply it when new techniques are used by the competitor.
- d. Demonstrates exceptional “attention to detail” and precision for all tech areas such as: shot times, towels, waste, tracking shots as served to judges, and anticipating the movement of the competitor.
- e. Accurately describes component parts of espresso equipment—and other relevant equipment—and their functions.
- f. Accurately discusses concepts of station management.

## General

| Competency  | Expectation   | Testing Methodology  | Recommended Resources/Practice  |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1.a. Signs and adheres to the WCC Judges Code of Conduct.   | <p>Judges should read, understand, and agree to all items in the WCC Judges Code of Conduct, and understand the potential consequences of violations.</p> <p>If there are any parts of the code of conduct that a judge does not understand, they should ask for clarification before signing.</p>  | Judges must sign a copy of the code of conduct during a Judge Certification event and handed to a SCA staff member. The signed copy will be kept on file by SCA.   | <a href="#"><u>WCC Judges Code of Conduct</u></a>   |
| <p>1.b. Coffee Knowledge:</p> <p>Discusses, describes, and recognizes coffee information according to SCA CSP intermediate level.</p> | <p>Judges should have a breadth of general coffee knowledge at an intermediate level in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Barista Skills</li> <li>● Brewing</li> <li>● Green Coffee</li> <li>● Roasting</li> <li>● Sensory</li> </ul> <p>This is because judges are looked at as experts in the field of coffee and are generally expected to be knowledgeable about a wide range of information in the coffee industry, whether that information has direct relevance to the competition they are judging.</p> | <p>A 35-question online exam is given to prospective judges covering a variety of coffee knowledge topics from the SCA CSP.</p> <p>The expectation is that judges will get a minimum of 70% on the test.</p> | <p><a href="#"><u>Intermediate level SCA CSP course material.</u></a></p> <p>Attention to detail remains the same other than its scoring scale moving to 0-3.</p> <p>The old presentation/professionalism has been removed and replaced with:</p> <p>Presentation: This is in place to reward the performance and presentation by the barista. This previously was not captured as well in the old scoresheets.</p> <p>"Professionalism" has changed to "coffee knowledge &amp; proper use of equipment" to clarify what is being evaluated in each category.</p> <p>This separation can only support better understanding the individual categories and barista craft.</p> |

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| 1.c. Follows and understands current industry trends.                     | <p>Judges should stay current with industry trends to understand the relevance of a competitor's routine and the context in which their routine is being delivered.</p> <p>(e.g., Latte art patterns that were complex and innovative 15 years ago are no longer considered complex or innovative. Having knowledge of current trends helps a judge to score more accurately.)</p>   | Observed throughout a judge certification and during competition deliberations, and calibrations. | <p><a href="#">SCA 25 Magazine</a></p> <p><a href="#">Re:co Symposium Videos</a></p> <p>Videos of previous coffee championship competitor routines which can be found on the <a href="#">WCC YouTube channel</a>.</p> |
| 1.d. Cooperates with others and supports the success of the WCCs.         | <p>Judges should display the following during a judge certification and at competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for ways to support the accomplishment of a successful competition.</li> <li>• Come with a constructive attitude that is willing to learn and be challenged.</li> <li>• Function as a part of a team and works to achieve the success of the team.</li> <li>• Willing to listen to and consider suggestions.</li> <li>• Give constructive feedback when appropriate.</li> </ul> | Observed throughout a judge certification and during competition deliberations, and calibrations. | <p><a href="#">SCA Values</a></p> <p><a href="#">WCC Website: About</a></p> <p><a href="#">WCC Judges Code of Conduct</a></p>   |
| 1.e. Exhibits professional behavior throughout the WCC or National Event. | Judges should always comply with the expected behaviors and attitudes that are detailed in the Judges Code of Conduct, Rules and Regulations for the competition they are judging, and WCC Judge Competencies documents.   | Observed throughout a Judge Certification and during competitions.                                | <p><a href="#">WCC Judges Code of Conduct</a></p> <p><a href="#">WCC Rules and Regulations</a></p> <p>WCC Judge Competencies</p>  |
| 1.f. (WLAC Only: Cooperates with judging Art Bar, as requested.)          | WLAC judges should be ready and willing to judge all aspects of the competition.   | N/A   | N/A   |

## Sensory Skills

| Competency  | Expectation   | Testing Methodology  | Recommended Resources/Practice   |
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| 2.a. Recognizes and applies "scales of intensity."  | <p>Judges should understand the concept of rating intensity which is described in 7.2. of SCA's Coffee Value Assessment Protocol. Scales of intensity are 15-point scales that cover the general categories of low, medium, and high, giving more specific ratings than these general categories offer.</p> <p>Beyond simply understanding the scale, judges must also be able to effectively apply intensity scales when judging. The expectation is that a judge can calibrate with other judges within a range.</p>  | <p>Observed during calibration and the practical test of a Judge Certification.</p> <p>Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners.</p>          | <p><a href="#">SCA Coffee Value Assessment Protocol</a></p> <p>Section 7.2</p>   |
| 2.b. Demonstrates understanding of and uses check-all-that-apply (CATA) lists confidently and accurately. | <p>The SCA Coffee Value Assessment highlights that judges can effectively align their evaluations when it comes to identifying specific flavors or qualities, like "coconut." The point isn't analyzing whether "coconut" is good or bad, but rather that everyone can agree it's present.</p> <p>CATA lists serve as a training tool. They help judges become consistent in recognizing and using key flavor descriptors, which are based on a standard reference and the central portion of the SCA Flavor Wheel.</p> | <p>A water-based test in which judges must taste and identify the main descriptive (retronasal) tastes present in the solution.</p> <p>The passing rate of this test is 80%.</p> | <p><a href="#">SCA Coffee Value Assessment Protocol</a></p> <p>Sections 6.2. &amp; 7.</p> <p><a href="#">WCR Sensory Lexicon</a></p> |
| 2.c. Demonstrates understanding of and uses hedonic scales fairly and consistently.                       | <p>SCA's CVA uses a 9-point hedonic scale in which the individual can express like or preference of the attribute present in the coffee served.</p> <p>The definition asks us to consider "impression of quality" based on our experience and sensory perception and the nature of this is largely</p>  | <p>Practiced in a discussion and not tested individually but tested during practical application in all sensory exercises during a judge certification.</p>                      | <p><a href="#">SCA Coffee Value Assessment Protocol</a></p> <p>Section 8.2.</p>  |

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|  | <p>subjective.</p> <p>Judges are expected to support their hedonic score with supportive comments and to adequately discuss why the attribute is or is not positive.</p>   |   |   |
| 2.d. Demonstrates understanding of and applies descriptive terms per the SCA's Coffee Value Assessment 2023 olfactory category references. | <p>World Coffee Research and the SCA, with the support of UC Davis, have developed the Lexicon and Flavor Wheel currently in use for description of coffee flavors. Under the same idea of "calibration to descriptors," it is important to reinforce and be able to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the mid-category of said descriptors. These descriptors are related to each category (rather than specific descriptors) and are orthonasal (not gustatory).</p>  | <p>17 references are provided in an aim for a baseline and calibration. Participants will get a chance to practice with these 17 and then a test is given in which 5 random references are provided, participants are required to analyze and identify them. The passing rate is 80%.</p> | <p><a href="#">SCA Coffee Value Assessment Protocol</a><br/>Section 7.</p> <p><a href="#">WCR Sensory Lexicon</a></p> |
| 2.e. WBrC – Critical: Recognizes coffee defects and brewing errors.  | <p>WBrC judges should be able to identify and differentiate the difference between major coffee defects and brewing errors in a cup of coffee.</p> <p>This means determining when the negative quality is related to a defect in the green or roasted coffee beans and when the issue is coming from over, under, or uneven extraction.</p> <p>Note: Judges should speculate on the nature of the defect or its suspected cause. A judge's responsibility is simply to describe what they are observing in the cup and rate its quality.</p> | <p>Tested during the WBrC Compulsory Test at a Judge Certification.</p>   | <p><a href="#">SCA Green Coffee Intermediate</a></p>  |
| 2.f. WCRC – Critical: Recognizes coffee defects and roasting defects.  | <p>Judges should be familiar with defects pertaining to the quality of the coffee itself and to roasting and be able to differentiate between a competitor error when roasting and a problem with the coffee itself.</p>   | <p>Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification.</p>   | <p><a href="#">SCA Green Coffee Intermediate</a></p>  |

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| 2.g. Demonstrates familiarity with different types of milk and plant-based alternatives in coffee beverages. | WBC Judges should be able to identify and be familiar with a range of animal and plant-based milks and be able to demonstrate this familiarity in a discussion. | Tested through the Rules and Regulations exams.                 | <a href="#">SCA Barista Skills Intermediate</a> |
| (WCIGS only)<br>2.h. Familiar with a range of different alcohols   | WCIGS Judges should be familiar with a range of different alcohols, how they taste, how they perform in drinks, sweetness levels, etc.                          | Tested through the WCIGS Sensory Test at a Judge Certification  | Taste a range of different alcohols.            |
| (WCIGS Only)<br>2.i. Demonstrates familiarity with different types of alcohol in coffee beverages.           | WCIGS Judges should be familiar with how a range of different alcohols taste and work in coffee beverages.  | Tested through the WCIGS Sensory Test at a Judge Certification. | Taste a range of coffee and alcohol beverages.  |

## Competition Stage Behavior

| Competency   | Expectation  | Testing Methodology  | Recommended Resources/Practice   |
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| 3.a. Follows evaluation protocol or competitor instructions.           | Judges are expected to follow competitor instructions when they give directions for evaluation. If no direction is given, judges should know the standard protocol for evaluation. (i.e., stirring an espresso three times and then taking two sips).  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | WCC Rules and Regulations detail the protocol, but experience can be gained from taking part in national competitions.   |
| 3.b. Captures key information from the competitor.                     | <p>Judges are expected to capture key information given by the competitor, such as coffee origin, processing method, brewing instructions, flavor notes, evaluation instructions, etc.</p> <p>This information should serve to help the judge to recall their experience when writing more detailed comments in the deliberation room.</p> <p>Symbols and shorthand can be used when on stage to quickly capture information, but these should be converted to understandable comments by the end of the deliberation so that they can be easily understood by the reader.</p> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 3.c. Completes scoresheet and assigns scores before leaving the stage. | Judges are expected to be able to adequately complete their score sheets and assign scores in all the boxes before leaving the stage. Assigning scores during deliberation is not acceptable.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 3.d. Prepares to go on stage in a timely manner.                       | Judges are expected to be ready and prepared to go on stage on time. WCC events have very strict timings, delays due to judges not being prepared is unacceptable. Judges should then be mindful of when is an appropriate time to use the bathroom, eat meals, etc.   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |



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| 3.e. Maintains focus throughout the competitor's presentation.      | <p>The judge should block out external stimuli and be present and focused on the presentation.</p> <p>Examples of expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not using phones during the routine and ensuring that their phones are on silent/airplane mode.</li> <li>• Blocking out the audience and their reactions to remain professional and focused.</li> <li>• Not talking or interacting with other judges (except the head judge when appropriate).</li> <li>• Actively listening to and taking in what the competitor is saying.</li> <li>• Look happy to be experiencing the presentation, supportive of the competitor, and always engaged.</li> </ul>  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance.  |
| 3.f. Pays attention to the competitor and has appropriate timing.   | <p>Engages in the competitor's routine as the competitor guides, while still carrying out the tasks required of a WBC judge.</p> <p>Examples of expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes eye contact and listens to the competitor when they are speaking to the judges.</li> <li>• Doesn't write notes when a competitor is speaking to the judges (except when carrying out beverage evaluation or writing descriptors).</li> <li>• Drinks water at appropriate times, (e.g., not directly after a beverage is consumed which could communicate a dislike of the beverage, and not when it might interfere with the competitor presentation).</li> <li>• Focuses on the competitor's visuals when the competitor refers to them and engages with them when instructed.</li> <li>• Actively works to not be a distraction to the competitor.</li> </ul> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | <p>Judges can observe how other judges do this by watching past competition routine videos and focus on the timing of the judges and how they respond to/interact with competitors.</p> <p>Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance.</p> |
| <p>(WCIGS Only)</p> <p>3.g. Familiar with a range of bar tools.</p> | WCIGS Judges should understand cocktail-making tools to understand the level of difficulty exhibited by the competitors, and the techniques used affect the drink being created.   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Visit cocktail bars and learn about bar tools.  |

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| (WLAC Only)<br><br>3.g. Demonstrates familiarity with basic latte art patterns, past and present standards and trends, their composition, and the generally perceived level of difficulty. | WLAC Judges should have knowledge of all basic latte art patterns, as well as present trends. Judges should understand when a new technique has been used or when a new pattern has been created. Judges should also understand the level of difficulty of all basic patterns. | Observed during the visual test of a Judge Certification. | Re-watch old WLAC routines, visit cafes, and judge at national level competitions. |
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## Scoresheets

| Competency                                  | Expectation   | Testing Methodology   | Recommended Resources/Practice  |
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| 4.a. Writes rule-based written comments.    | <p>The comments written on the scoresheet should, as much as possible, be based on expectations stated in the rules and not personal opinions. Judges can reference back to the rules as needed and indicate specific areas. Examples of rules-based written comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Espresso, Taste Experience: "I observed medium-high acidity, medium bitterness, and low-medium sweetness. The acidity at the front led to a bitter aftertaste. The acidity and the bitterness were under supported by sweetness making the espresso unbalanced. The quality of espresso was brought down by the intensity and low quality of the bitterness."</li> </ul> <p>Examples of written comments that aren't rules based:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Espresso, Taste Experience: "I didn't like the balance of your espresso. If I were you, I would have made it sweeter."</li> <li>Attention to details: "All things were provided, but the design of your cups and saucer weren't appealing in their design."</li> </ul> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners. | <p><a href="#">WCC Rules and Regulations</a></p> <p>Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance.</p>  |
| 4.b. Uses comments that support the scores. | <p>The comments written on the scoresheet must be consistent with the score given.</p> <p>Example: A score of 4 on the 0-6 impression/experience scale should be supported by comments that express that the quality is "Very Good." If there are a lot of negatives in the comments but a score of 4, the comments and the notes would not be calibrated with one another.</p>   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners. | <p>Scoring scales on scoresheets and in competition rules and regulations (note what word is associated with each number). Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance.</p> |

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| 4.c. Demonstrates ability to use the full range of the scoring systems. | Judges should use the full range of scores as appropriate and avoid safe scoring. This means awarding high scores where the judge believes a high score should be awarded, and low scores when the attribute being judged is of low quality.   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification.  | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 4.d. Uses legible handwriting and organized comments.                   | Handwriting should be legible so that others can read it during debriefing.<br><br>Any shorthand or symbols used to quickly capture notes on stage should be either converted to full words or sentences or a legend should be utilized to help judges and competitors understand the scoresheet.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 4.e. Writes scores and comments in appropriate areas.                   | Judges are expected to write in all appropriate areas. Scoresheet planning and note taking should be easy to understand for other judges as many times they will be expected to give a debrief based on scoresheets only.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 4.f. Writes an adequate number of comments.                             | Judges should aim to write as many comments as possible to ensure that other judges can give detailed and relevant feedback to competitors during their debrief session and to ensure that all scores are adequately supported.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 4.g. Cooperates when asked to comment calibrate (if applicable).        | Comment calibration is an important part of the championship. It is when another judge goes through the entire set of judge scoresheets that were completed for the competitor and takes note of things such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The score you gave is a 2, but your notes sound like it is lower quality.”</li> </ul> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review               | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "These notes are difficult to read."</li> <li>• "Needs further clarification."</li> </ul> <p>Judges must be willing to calibrate scoresheets when assigned and to thoughtfully consider the feedback they receive on their own scoresheet and make edits to improve their scoresheet quality, accuracy, and legibility.</p> | by examiners and defend scores during deliberation testing. |  |
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## Deliberation

| Competency  | Expectation   | Testing Methodology   | Recommended Resources/Practice   |
|---|---|---|--|
| 5.a. Adjusts scores with Head Judge (when appropriate).                     | <p>During deliberation, a judge may realize that their comments or scores are not in line with the rules and regulations, and they are expected to adjust accordingly, with or without the HJ's explicit request.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p><i>A judge compares their numeric scores to their comments and realizes their score is not reflective of their personal experience as they described (e.g., they noted a score of 2 in "accuracy of descriptors" but noted that the competitor's descriptors would have been "very accurate" (3) when comparing the competitor's description and their experience description more closely).</i></p> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. Judges will be required to submit their scoresheets for review by examiners and defend scores during deliberation testing. | <a href="#">WCC Rules and Regulations</a>  |
| 5.b. Demonstrates understanding of WCC rules and how to apply them.         | All judges are expected to know the rules of the competition they intend on judging and can apply them throughout judging, referring to the rules for clarification when needed.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification and tested through the Rules and Regulations tests.   | <a href="#">WCC Rules and Regulations</a>  |
| 5.c. Writes sufficient written comments on scoresheets before deliberation. | <p>Judges should take essential notes on stage and then utilize the time after leaving the stage and before the head judge begins deliberation to edit and complete their notes.</p> <p>The goal is that when the head judge asks for a judge's comments for a particular score, that judge will simply read the notes that they have rather than giving their thoughts.</p> <p>Tech judges should use the time when sensory judges are deliberating to complete their notes and ensure that their notes are both calibrated and legible.</p>   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification.  | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |

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| 5.d. Demonstrates clarity when HJ addresses them and knows which area, scale, or comments should be indicated. Attentive and concise. | <p>During deliberation judges should not be writing all their comments - this should be done before. During deliberation the judge should know which category is being discussed and be able to respond quickly and efficiently to what they are being asked.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>If the HJ asks to read your comments and you must ask which category, that may indicate that you're not part of the conversation.</p> | Observed during deliberation during the practical test at a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 5.e. Demonstrates adequate deliberation room behavior.  | The time for deliberation at a competition is limited and so judges need to be efficient in deliberation. Judges are also expected to function as a part of the team, so are expected to actively listen and be open to the experiences of the other judges  | Observed during deliberation during the practical test at a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |

## Debriefing

| Competency   | Expectation   | Testing Methodology  | Recommended Resources/Practice   |
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| 6.a. Answers questions sufficiently and finds positives in the competitor's performance. | <p>Generally, it is expected that the debriefing will be guided by the competitor and their questions about their scoresheets or about their routine in general. The judge should endeavor to provide as much clarity as possible to the competitor by speaking from their own experience, referencing the scoresheets, and bringing other judges into the conversation that may be more knowledgeable.</p> <p>A part of answering questions sufficiently is referring competitors to specific sections of the rules and regulations to clarify what was expected and how their routine either met or did not meet those expectations. For this reason, it is important that judges can reference the rules relatively quickly in a debriefing setting.</p> <p>As the judge interacts with the competitor, they must manage the tension of being accurate during the routine and being supportive and encouraging to the barista. Judges should always look for points where they can highlight the positive things that the competitor did during their performance.</p> | Observed during the debriefing portion of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 6.b. Makes comments relevant to the competitor's performance.                            | <p>During the debriefing, comments that judges make should pertain only to that competitor's performance. It is not appropriate to reference other competitors' routines in the debriefing (e.g., "Competitor 1's espresso was much more complex than yours.")</p> <p>Judges must also be careful not to coach the competitor during the debriefing. To avoid coaching, the judge only should comment on what was presented and observed, not on how the competitor could have done better.</p>   | Observed during the debriefing portion of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |



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| 6.c. Demonstrates ability to debrief a competitor using other judges' scoresheets. | Often judges are required to debrief competitors whom they did not judge. In this situation, the judge must rely solely on the competitor's scoresheets to debrief them. Judges must be able to read and interpret these scoresheets for the competitor, providing additional general context from a judge's perspective and the rules and regulations when appropriate.  | Observed during the debriefing portion of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 6.d. Recognizes the importance of debriefing.                                      | Judges are expected to participate in debriefing as a part of judging, if there is not a time conflict with their judging slots. During a debriefing, the judge should be professional in their interactions, and express an openness to debrief the competitor. Judges are expected to be focused on the competitor throughout the debriefing.   | Observed during the debriefing portion of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 6.e. Demonstrates the ability to diffuse tense situations.                         | <p>Judges should establish clear expectations and boundaries at the beginning of the debriefing time. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Giving the competitor their scoresheets and instructing them to look them over.</li> <li>● Instructing them on whether they can take the scoresheets home with them or if they are permitted to take photos of the scoresheets.</li> <li>● That the debriefing will be guided by the competitor's questions and that the questions should be as specific as possible.</li> <li>● That the debriefing time is limited (possibly define a time limit for the competitor).</li> </ul> <p>Judges should demonstrate not taking things personally and explaining carefully with rule-based comments and understand when a situation is no longer rational and end the discussion suggesting it for a future time.</p> <p>In situations where the competitor is not satisfied or would like to appeal, the judge should point the competitor to the instructions on how to appeal in the rules and regulations and encourage the competitor to do so if they so wish.</p> | Observed during the debriefing portion of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |

## Technical Skills

| Competency   | Expectation   | Testing Methodology  | Recommended Resources/Practice   |
|--|---|--|--|
| 7.a. Demonstrates ability to distinguish waste within 0.5 g of coffee and 30 mL of milk variance.  | Technical judges should be able to visually estimate the waste of ground coffee (knockbox, floor, in dosing cups, etc.) within 0.5g of variance and any milk waste within 10ml of variance.   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Judges can practice this skill in advance by making visual estimations of various amounts of ground coffee and milk waste.                                     |
| 7.b. Accurately discusses dosing, tamping, and distribution techniques.  | Technical judges should be familiar and stay updated in their knowledge of different dosing and tamping techniques (manual or technology assisted). The judge should understand and be able to evaluate to what degree the techniques used resulted in consistent dosing and tamping.   | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Experience and practice can be gained by taking part in national competitions. WCE Reps and certified world judges in attendance can give advice and guidance. |
| 7.c. Demonstrates thorough understanding of technical scoresheet and how to use it for new techniques.   | Judges should demonstrate an understanding of how new techniques are evaluated on the scoresheet and how to apply the existing rules for them. Detailed understanding of the rules and technical scoresheets are necessary to apply it to existing and new techniques.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | <a href="#">WCC Rules and Regulations.</a><br>Technical scoresheet   |
| 7.d. Demonstrates exceptional "attention to detail" and precision for all tech areas such as: shot times, towels, waste, tracking shots as served to judges, and anticipating the movement of the competitor, etc. | Judges should always be aware of everything happening on the stage, including but not limited to:<br><br>exact shot times, where shots go (which judge), if towels or items fell on the floor, sig drink preparation, the coffee extraction in the portafilter (uneven), cleaning during preparation, glasses and accessories at judge table, handling of any elements used that go into beverages: ingredients, ice cubes, hands on rims of cups or glasses. | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | Judges can watch videos of prior competitions and fill out technical scoresheets based on what can be observed in the video.                                   |

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|---|--|--|--|
| 7.e. Accurately describes component parts of espresso equipment—and other relevant equipment—and their functions. | Judges should know and name the different parts of the espresso machine, grinder and equipment used by the competitor. They should also understand what it looks like for a competitor to skillfully use equipment according to their intended use and equipment use is not skillful or is scattered.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | <a href="#">SCA Barista Foundation</a>   |
| 7.f. Demonstrates familiarity with different types of espresso machines.  | Judges should be familiar with different types of espresso machines and their basic operation and functions. This includes being able to properly describe and talk about the various parts of an espresso machine.  | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | <a href="#">SCA Barista Intermediate &amp; Professional</a>  |
| 7.g. Accurately discusses concepts of station management.   | <p>Technical judges should be able to understand how to evaluate and discuss the quality of a competitor's station management to include the cleanliness of the station at the beginning and end of their routine.</p> <p>The list of items looked at in this category is extensive and is described in detail in the competition rules and regulations.</p> | Observed during the practical test of a Judge Certification. | <p>Judges can watch videos of prior competitions and fill out technical scoresheets based off what can be observed in the video.</p> <p>Competition rules and regulations - pertaining to station management</p> |