

# USCC Deferral Policy

U.S. Coffee Championships

U.S. Chapter of the Specialty Coffee Association

## Overview & Purpose

The USCC Deferral Policy protects a qualified competitor's ability to participate in the U.S. Coffee Championships and to guarantee competitors will not be prevented from competing due to circumstances beyond their control. USCC competitors who have a circumstance which stops them from competing at USCC may request to defer their USCC spot to the following season. This document will define who is eligible and what circumstances allow competitors to defer.

The U.S. Chapter of the Specialty Coffee Associations recognizes there are many circumstances in which a competitor may decide not to compete in the U.S. Coffee Championships; however not all circumstances will qualify competitors to defer. This document will help define what are eligible reasons to apply for deferral and which are ineligible reasons.

## Qualifying Circumstances

USCC Competitors may apply for deferral for the follow reasons:

### Personal & Family Medical Exemption

If the competitor or their immediate family member(s) have a serious health condition. Additionally, competitors may request deferral for adoption, pregnancy, birth, COVID-19 concerns, or bereavement.

### Military Leave or Government Obligations

If a competitor is obligated to perform unforeseen military duty, or is obligated to perform civic duties, as required by the government.

### Religious Observances

If USCC is scheduled on a day(s) of religious observance which prevents a competitor's participation in the championship.

### Natural Disaster or Catastrophe

If the competitor experiences significant displacement of resources, due to a natural disaster or catastrophe. Natural disasters include, but are not exclusive to, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, floods, wildfires, or mudslides.

## **Non-Qualifying Circumstances**

### **Scheduling Conflicts**

USCC may be scheduled during a period of time that conflicts with personal schedules. National holidays, vacations, and weddings are examples of ineligible reasons for deferment.

### **Conflict of Interest / Protest**

USCC may be hosted in a city or state with politics that are in conflict with the personal values of the competitor. The U.S. Chapter recognizes all competitors have the right to decline to attend a championship, for any reason, and have a right to do so without any fear of retaliation, but this does not grant them deferment. Deferment will not be granted on the grounds of protest, political statement, or personal disagreement with sponsorship, location, venue, host, organizers, etc.

## **Applying for Deferral**

Please email the U.S. Competitions Manager: [competitions@sca.coffee](mailto:competitions@sca.coffee)

Placement at USCC belongs to the competitor listed on the registration form. The competitor is the only person who may apply for deferral. If a serious and unforeseen medical condition prevents the competitor from being able to email the U.S. Competitions Manager, a family member, partner, or associate may be able to process the initial application, and the competitor must confirm their desire to file for deferral as soon as they are able.

### **Registration Fees**

All registration fees will be maintained by the SCA and rolled over to the following season.

## **Terms and Conditions**

### **Good Faith Application**

The USCC Deferral Policy exists to protect a qualified competitor's ability to participate in the U.S. Coffee Championships and to guarantee competitors will not be prevented from competing due to circumstances beyond their control. In accordance with the SCA's core value of Respect for the Individual, USCC will not require documentation. Competitors may elect to provide documentation with their deferral email but it is not required. If a competitor is found to have applied for deferral under false pretenses, USCC retains the right to revoke deferral.

### **Length and Expiration of Validity**

Deferral is only valid for one season.