

# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## Contest Rules

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# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## Contest Rules

Updated 3/31/2008

### FOREWORD

These rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests at the division, district and international levels in the Society. In these rules, the definition of the district chorus contest is the contest at which the district chorus champion is selected. In matters not specifically covered by these rules, the districts may exercise reasonable latitude and prerogative provided that the established ethics and policies of the Society are closely observed.

### ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Quartets

##### 1. Membership/ Quartet Registration Requirements

*a. Society and Chapter:* Except for those quartets from affiliated organizations which have been invited to participate in the international quartet or in the international seniors quartet contest, all members of competing quartets must be members of one or more chapters, including Frank H. Thorne Chapter. A member of the Society is defined as one whose Society, district, and chapter dues are paid, whether or not such dues have been forwarded to the district or Society by the chapter, and who is not under suspension by his chapter or the Society Board of Directors.

*b. District:* At least one member of the quartet must be a member of a chapter in the district in which the quartet elects to compete.

*c. Affiliates:* All members of a competing quartet from an affiliated organization must be members in good standing of the affiliated organization.

*d. Quartet Registration:* To be eligible for competition, a quartet must be registered with the Society office or, in the case of quartets from affiliated organizations, with their affiliated organization, and such registration must include the same personnel that enter the contest.

##### 2. Seniors Quartet

Each member of a quartet competing in the international seniors quartet contest must be age 55 or older and the sum of the accumulated ages of the quartet must equal or exceed 240 years. These requirements must be met on the basis of birthdays reached on or before the day of the international seniors contest held at the midwinter convention.

##### 3. Selection of Home District

In the event that members of a quartet collectively hold memberships in chapters in more than one district, the quartet must notify the Society Quartet Registry office prior to March 1 of the current year of the district it chooses to represent and in which it will compete. Such selection will be binding for a full year, and the quartet may not compete in any contest in any other district during that year except as provided below.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 4. Out of District Competition

*a. Petition:* Under normal circumstances, quartets are expected to compete in their home districts. In exceptional circumstances, however, a quartet may petition to compete in a district other than their home district.

*b. Action:* Such requests by quartets to compete in a district other than their home district must be unanimously approved by the requested district's representative for contest and judging and district president, and the home district's representative for contest and judging and district president.

*c. Deadline:* For international preliminary quartet contests and international preliminary seniors quartet contests, this request and approval must be granted by all parties (as indicated above) prior to the official registration deadline for the earliest international preliminary contest of the affected districts, regardless of the international preliminary contest in which they are actually competing.

### 5. Competing in Multiple Quartets

In international and international preliminary contests a member may compete with only one quartet, regardless of the number of quartets or districts to which he belongs.

However, a member may compete in multiple quartets in any division or district contest in one or more districts.

### 6. Championship Quartets

*a. Not Eligible to Compete:* Except in division contests, championship quartets of other years will not be eligible to compete again for that championship.

*b. Forming New Quartet:* This rule will not be construed to prohibit the organization and entry of a new quartet of not more than two members of the same championship quartet, provided entry is made under a different name.

### 7. Convention Registration

Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

## B. Choruses

### 1. Membership Requirements

*a. Society:* Except for those choruses from affiliated organizations that have been invited to participate in the international chorus contest, all members of competing choruses, except the director, must be members of the Society and of each chapter they choose to represent in competition. Chapters represented in Society chorus contests must be in good standing with the Society and their districts.

*b. Affiliates:* All members of competing choruses from affiliated organizations, except the director, must be members in good standing of that affiliated organization and of the chapter or club that they represent in competition.

### 2. One Chorus per Chapter

Chapters may not enter more than one chorus in any Society-sponsored contest.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 3. Minimum Size

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director.

### 4. Contest Cycle and Dual/Transfer Membership

*a. Contest Cycle Defined:* In each district, a contest cycle begins with the first contest, in a given calendar year that is part of the process of selecting the district's representative to the international chorus contest.

*b. Membership Prior to Cycle Commencement:* To be eligible to compete with a given chapter as a transfer or dual (including reinstated dual) member, a member must have established his transfer or dual membership status in the chapter prior to the commencement of the contest cycle in the district.

(1) *Membership Established:* A membership transfer or dual membership will be established upon receipt at the Society office of the necessary request for transfer or dual membership, and all necessary approvals thereof.

(2) *Change of Residence:* This eligibility requirement will not apply to a member who, after the commencement of the contest cycle, changes his place of residence and solely as a consequence of such change, transfers his membership to the chapter with whose chorus he thereafter competes.

*c. Multiple Choruses:* A dual or transfer member may participate, either as director or singer, with more than one chorus in any contest.

### 5. Exceptions for Dual/Transfer Members

If exceptions to, or interpretations of, I.B.4 are sought for any reason:

*a. Requests for Contests Up To and Including International Chorus Preliminary:*

Regarding those contests in the process of selecting the district's representative to the international chorus contest, request for such ruling must be submitted to the district's representative for contest and judging at least 30 days in advance of the contest date to which such ruling would apply.

*b. Requests for International Chorus Contest:* Regarding the international chorus contest, request for such ruling must be submitted to the Society Contest and Judging Committee (SCJC) Chairman at least 30 days in advance of the contest date to which such ruling would apply.

*c. Decision:* The decision of the district's representative for contest and judging or the SCJC Chairman (as the case may be) will be final, subject to the general powers of the district board and the Society Board of Directors.

[NOTE: It is Society policy that the district's representative for contest and judging and the SCJC Chairman (as the case may be) will grant a requested waiver unless he reasonably believes that granting the waiver would create an unfair competitive advantage for a chorus based upon the number of waivers previously approved. Upon receipt of a waiver request, the district's representative for contest and judging should consult with the SCJC Chairman so that district decisions can reflect consistent practice throughout the Society.]

## BHS Contest Rules

### 6. Authority for Eligibility Decisions

*a. International Chorus Contest:* Eligibility of members to compete in the international chorus contest is solely the duty of the SCJC, subject to the powers of the Society Board of Directors.

*b. International Preliminary Chorus Contest:* Eligibility of members to compete in any international preliminary chorus contest that selects the district's representative to the international chorus contest is the administrative duty of the district's representative for contest and judging with review by and appeal to the SCJC in the case of a violation.

*c. Other Chorus Contests:* Contests other than those contests in the process of selecting the district's representative to the international chorus contest will be defined solely by district policy, provided that the requirements of chapter membership are met at the time of the contest.

### 7. Chorus Director

Nothing in Article I will be construed as to limit the rights of a chapter to appoint or replace its chorus director at any time.

### 8. Out of District Competition

*a. Petition:* Under normal circumstances, choruses are expected to compete in their home districts. In exceptional circumstances, however, a chorus may petition to compete in a district other than its home district.

*b. Action:* Such requests by choruses to compete in a district other than their home district shall be submitted to the home district's representative for contests and judging and must include explicit reasons for the request. Any request must be unanimously approved by the requested district's representative for contest and judging and its district president, and the home district's representative for contest and judging and its district president. If approved or denied by all parties, a report will be made to the SCJC Chairman by the home district's representative for contests and judging.

*c. Review:* If opinion is not unanimous among the parties, the request shall be forwarded to the SCJC Chairman for review and recommendation and the Society Executive Director who shall provide final resolution to ensure consistent and equitable application of this provision throughout the Society.

*d. Deadline:*

(1) For international preliminary chorus contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the official entry deadline for the earlier international preliminary contest of the affected districts, regardless of the international preliminary contest in which they are actually competing.

(2) For division and district contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the official entry deadline of the out of district contest for which entry is desired.

### 9. Layout After Championship

International champion choruses are not eligible to compete for the international championships to be awarded for the two years following the year in which the chorus won the international championship.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 10. Convention Registration

Each and every member of a competing chorus shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

### C. Violations of Article I

#### 1. Reporting Violation

Suspected violations of Article I shall be reported to the district's representative for contest and judging (for contests other than international contests) or to the SCJC Chairman (for international contests) within 10 days after discovery of the suspected violation and, in any event, no later than 30 days after the contest conclusion. All such reports must be signed and should include all available documentation in order to assist with the investigation and decision.

#### 2. Format

All notices and rulings with respect to Article I violations must be in writing (which may include electronic transmissions) and shall be deemed to have been given

- (1) upon personal delivery, or
- (2) two business days after being mailed, or
- (3) if given by electronic transmission, when received and acknowledged.

The party receiving an electronic notice or ruling shall immediately acknowledge receipt.

#### 3. Quartets

Quartets found in violation of Article I.A are ineligible and will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary.

#### 4. Choruses

*a. Non-member, Multiple Chorus, or Minimum Size Ineligibility:* Choruses found in violation of Article I.B.1, I.B.2, and I.B.3 are ineligible and will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary.

*b. Dual/Transfer Member Ineligibility:* Choruses found in violation of Article I.B.4 may either (1) be declared ineligible, and in that event will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest, **or** (2) be assessed another penalty commensurate with the circumstances and precedents. The scoring summary data will be maintained by the SCJC. For international preliminary chorus contests, a report outlining the violation will be filed by the district's representative for contest and judging with the SCJC.

*c. Decision on Dual/Transfer Members:* The decision to invoke penalties under Article I.B.4 will be made within 10 days after determining that a violation has occurred. The decision to declare a chorus ineligible under this rule will automatically be reviewed by the SCJC. The SCJC may elect to uphold or rescind the finding of ineligibility or may impose a penalty commensurate with circumstances or precedents. The contestant will have the right to appeal to the Society Board of Directors, whose decision will be final. Scoring summary data will remain in place until the last appeal decision.

## BHS Contest Rules

### ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

#### A. Division Contests

Contest entry procedures for division contests are specified by district policy.

#### B. District Contests and International Preliminary Contests

##### 1. Contest Entry

A contest entry form will be sent or otherwise made available to each eligible contestant within the district by the district official(s) as specified by the district at least 30 days prior to the contest entry deadline or distributed to each eligible contestant at the qualifying contest. Publication of the entry form in the district bulletin or other district publication(s) circulated to all members of the district shall satisfy the requirement of this section.

##### 2. Deadline

Completed entries for the contest must be received by the district's representative for contest and judging by a date specified by district policy; provided however, that for good cause shown, the district's representative for contest and judging, with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman, may accept late entries which are received by him not later than 7 days prior to the contest date.

#### C. International Quartet Contests

##### 1. Contestant Qualification

*a. District Representative:* The highest scoring quartet from each district (regardless of the district in which such quartet competes to qualify) shall qualify to represent that district in the international quartet contest.

*b. Attainment of Target Score:* In addition, all Society and affiliate quartets that meet or exceed the target score (Art. V.D.3) shall qualify for the international contest.

*c. Scoring Pool:* In the event that fewer than 45 Society quartets are qualified by the above methods, the remaining quartets to fill out the minimum field of 45 Society quartets will be selected by rank from a pool of all those quartets competing in that year's international preliminary contests. In the event that more than one quartet is ranked 45th by score, each quartet achieving that ranking shall qualify for the international contest.

*d. Minimum Score:* In all circumstances, to be eligible to compete in the international quartet contest, all quartets, including affiliates, must have earned a minimum score, which is adopted by the Society Board of Directors at its annual midwinter meeting during the year of the international contest in question, after considering the target score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The minimum score, once adopted by the Society Board of Directors, shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the Society Board of Directors. [NOTE: Currently 65%.]

*e. Affiliate Quartets:* To assure consistency of the minimum qualifying score for affiliate quartets, their contests should be judged by a panel containing at least a single-panel component of certified Society judges.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 2. Personnel Change and Qualifying Quartet Replacement

*a. Personnel Change After Qualifying:* If a personnel change should occur in a qualifying quartet between the international preliminary quartet contest and the international contest, that quartet becomes ineligible to compete.

*b. Replacement of District Representative:* If prior to the international contest a district's first-place qualifying quartet becomes either ineligible or otherwise unavailable to compete, and if as a result, that district would not be represented in the international contest, then the next highest-ranking quartet that is available from the same district will replace the quartet that has become ineligible or unavailable, provided that said next highest-ranking quartet has earned the minimum score as defined in Article II.C.1.

*c. Replacement of Scoring Pool Quartet:* If, prior to the international contest, a quartet that qualified solely by attainment of the target score as defined above becomes ineligible or unavailable, that quartet will not be replaced, except where the loss of that quartet brings the total of Society quartets qualifying for the contest below 45.

### 3. Contest Entry and Deadline

Completed entry forms for the contest must be received by the Society Contest and Judging office no later than 15 June prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman, the Society Contest and Judging office may accept late entries.

## D. International Seniors Quartet Contests

### 1. Contest Qualification

*a. District Representative:* The highest scoring declared seniors quartet from each district in their home district's preliminary seniors quartet contest shall be declared the district's representative.

(1) Report of Seniors Quartet District Representative: Immediately following an international preliminary seniors quartet contest, the district's representative for contest and judging or affiliate counterpart will provide the Society quartet registration office with the name of their representative quartet and its members, using entry forms available from the quartet registry at the Society office, the district secretary, or the contact designee of an affiliate.

*b. Scoring Pool:* All other seniors quartet scores from the international preliminary seniors quartet contest will be included in a composite list scoring pool, ranked by score, from which entries will be chosen until a total of 25 Society quartets has been obtained. Qualification as district representative and quartets-at-large from the scoring pool will be the only means of entry for Society seniors quartets to the international seniors quartet contest.

*c. Affiliate Seniors Quartets:* Affiliate seniors quartets will be invited by the Society Board, and they shall be in addition to the 25 Society quartets.

*d. Other Seniors Quartet Contests:* Districts are free to stage other seniors quartet contests for local awards.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **2. Notification and Indication of Intent**

All district and affiliate representatives and at-large selected quartets will be notified before November 1 preceding the contest date. Each quartet must advise the Society of its intention to compete by November 15. Failure of any quartet to do so, by the date specified, shall constitute withdrawal of the quartet's entry.

### **3. Replacement**

*a. District Representative:* If a district-selected representative withdraws or otherwise becomes unavailable, and, as a result, that district would not be represented in the international seniors quartet contest, then the next highest-ranking quartet that is available from the same district will replace the quartet that has withdrawn or become unavailable.

*b. Scoring Pool:* In the event any quartets withdraw or otherwise become unavailable prior to the first working day of January, replacements shall be added from the scoring pool.

*c. Cut-Off Date:* No replacements will be made after the first working day in January, whether or not a district would be left unrepresented and regardless of the number of remaining entries.

### **4. Contest Entry and Deadline**

Completed entry forms for the contest must be received by the Society Contest and Judging office no later than 10 January prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman, the Society Contest and Judging office may accept late entries.

## **E. International Chorus Contests**

### **1. Contest Qualification**

*a. District Representative:* The highest-scoring chorus from each district competing in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest shall qualify to represent that district in the international chorus contest.

*b. Scoring Pool and Minimum Score:* In addition, and whether competing in their home district or another district (pursuant to Article I.B.7), the next available highest-scoring choruses in the Society will also qualify for the international chorus contest up to a number to be determined each year by the Society Board of Directors at its annual meeting in the year preceding the international contest, provided such choruses have earned a minimum score adopted by the Society Board of Directors at the same annual meeting after considering the minimum recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee.

### **2. Replacement**

*a. District Representative:* If a qualifying chorus that was highest-scoring in its home district international preliminary contest cannot compete or chooses not to compete in the international chorus contest, then the next highest-ranking chorus that is available from the same district and that competed in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest will be invited to replace the qualifying chorus.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

*b. Scoring Pool:* If a qualifying chorus that was not highest-scoring in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest withdraws from the international chorus contest or otherwise becomes unavailable, the next highest-scoring eligible chorus in the Society not yet qualified will be invited to replace the withdrawn chorus.

*c. Replacement OOA:* If the order of appearance has been determined, the replacement chorus will fill the position of the withdrawn chorus in the contest order of appearance.

*d. Acceptance and Cut-off Date:* Invited choruses will have seven days to respond to the invitation. The process for replacing withdrawals will end by April 1.

### **3. Contest Entry and Deadline**

Completed entry forms for the contest must be received by the Society Contest and Judging office no later than 15 June prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman, the Society Contest and Judging office may accept late entries.

### **4. Roster and Certification Submission**

*a. Roster Submission:* Each chorus competing in the international chorus contest must submit a roster to the Society C&J liaison office by June 15th indicating all members who will be participating on stage with that chorus. The roster must include the full name of each member who will be competing, his Society member number, and an indication that he has a convention registration.

*b. Certification Statement:* The roster must also include the following statement and be signed by the chapter president, chapter secretary and chapter music and performance vice president:

“We hereby certify that this roster is accurate and that all names submitted are Society, district, and chapter members in good standing, that each member has, or will have, a convention registration, and that we have complied with all eligibility requirements outlined in Article I.B.”

*c. Validation:* The Society membership department will validate each roster list submitted and notify the chapter that (1) the validated list has been forwarded to the contest administrator for the international chorus contest, or (2) return the list to the chapter with notations reflecting members not in compliance with the rule. If the latter, the chorus has five calendar days to get all members submitted in compliance or remove their non-compliant names from the list.

*d. Eligibility Confirmation:* The roster list and other documentation may be used by the contest administrators, convention officials, or Society staff to confirm eligibility at the contest site.

*e. Non-compliance:* Failure to comply with this requirement will result in declaring the chorus ineligible as specified in Article I.

## **F. Copyright Clearance**

### **1. Observance of Copyright Laws**

All contestants are required to observe the copyright laws in the acquisition, learning, and performance of songs and/or arrangements.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **2. Contest Entry Form**

Consistent with this Society policy, contestants are required to submit a contest entry form [CJ-20] along with documentation of cleared music as specified in the *Contest and Judging Handbook* section PROVIDING PROOF OF COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE FOR COMPETITION.

### **3. Multiple Song Entry**

If a contestant is not sure which songs they may perform in contest, it can list all the possibilities on the entry form.

### **4. Use of Song Not Listed On Entry Form**

If it wishes to perform a song not previously listed on the entry, a contestant is required to provide a hard copy of the song and/or permission to arrange/perform license to the contest administrator prior to the start of the competition. In no case shall song title clearances be accepted after the start of the contest.

### **5. Non-Compliance**

Non-compliance with this rule by performing a song in contest for which copyright clearance has not been obtained or by failing to provide the required documentation of cleared music at any time upon request will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified.

## **ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES**

Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories:

### **A. Music**

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. He adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. He judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. He adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

### **B. Presentation**

The Presentation judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. He responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the presentation, but he principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. He adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Presentation judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **C. Singing**

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, ring, or expansion of sound throughout the performance. When artistry is present, these elements will be natural, un-manufactured, and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to fully communicate the theme of the song.

## **ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES**

### **A. Certification**

Judges (scoring judges and contest administrators) are certified by the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chairman, in their respective categories in accordance with their qualifications to judge one of the three scoring categories or to serve as a contest administrator. It is the duty of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chairman, to provide an official register of certified and candidate judges and contest administrators who are all Society members.

### **B. Appointment of District, International Preliminary, and International Panels**

#### **1. Appointment**

The contest administrators and scoring judges for district, international preliminary and international contests are appointed from the *Official Register of Certified Judges and Contest Administrators* by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chairman.

#### **2. Contest with Double Panel Minimum**

A minimum of two judges per scoring category shall be used in district and international preliminary quartet contests and the international seniors quartet contest. In addition, those panels shall have at least one contest administrator and one associate contest administrator.

#### **3. International Contests with Quintuple Panel**

Five judges per scoring category shall be used in the international quartet and chorus contests. In addition, those international panels shall have one contest administrator and two associate contest administrators.

### **C. Appointment of Division Panels**

#### **1. Appointment**

The contest administrators and scoring judges for division contests are appointed from the *Official Register of Certified Judges and Contest Administrators* by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chairman.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 2. Number of Judges and Candidate Judges

The number of judges is determined by district policy. A candidate judge or contest administrator may be appointed to the panel upon approval of the specific Category Specialist.

### D. Appointment from Other Organizations

In the event that a judge from the *Official Register of Certified Judges and Contest Administrators* for a division, district, or international preliminary contest cannot be appointed or must be replaced after being appointed, a judge may be appointed from a Society affiliated barbershop organization or from Harmony Incorporated provided that such judge has been awarded a certificate of completion from the most recent Society Judges Category School.

### E. Panel Expense Allowance

An expense allowance for each judge and contest administrator will be determined by using the “Standard Procedures for Determining Expense Allowance for Member of Judging Panels” contained in the *Contest and Judging Handbook*.

## ARTICLE V: TYPES OF CONTESTS

### A. All Contests

#### 1. Sessions

If there are more than 25 contestants, they shall be divided into two or more contest sessions, scheduled as separate events. In unusual circumstances, an exception to this rule in the international quartet and chorus contests may be made by the Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman, and an exception in division or district contests may be made by the district's representative for contest and judging.

#### 2. Song Repetition

*a. Substantial Part Repeated:* Within all rounds of a specific contest, a contestant may not repeat a song or a substantial part of any song. In the context of these rules, the term song may refer to a single song or a medley in which major portions of two or more songs are used.

*b. Recommendation by Music Judge(s):* A Music judge shall recommend forfeiture to the contest administrator if a contestant repeats more than two phrases from one of its songs in another song. If there are two or more Music judges, the decision to forfeit must be unanimous.

*c. Recommendation Unanimous:* When the decision to forfeit is unanimous, the contest administrator shall record as zero the contestant's entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s).

*d. Recommendation Not Unanimous:* When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **3. Convention Registrations**

All contestants shall hold registrations for the convention at which the contest is held.

### **4. District Qualifying Rounds for International Preliminary Contests**

Districts are permitted to establish qualifying rounds contests for selection of their representative to international contests as long as the final selection is made at the time indicated for the appropriate international preliminary contest.

## **B. Division Contests and District Chorus Contests**

Contestants are judged on two different songs in one appearance or, if dictated by district policy, contestants are judged on four different songs in two appearances.

## **C. District Quartet Contests**

### **1. Adjudication**

Quartets may be judged on four different songs in two appearances or, if dictated by district policy, on two different songs in one appearance.

### **2. Elimination Round and Number in Finals**

If quartets are judged on four different songs in two appearances and there are more than ten contestants, the first appearance is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second, or final, appearance to ten or less. Districts may exercise latitude in the number of finalist quartets.

## **D. International Preliminary Quartet Contests**

### **1. Timing and Supervision**

International preliminary quartet contests will be held in each district in the spring of each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that Board.

### **2. Adjudication**

Quartets are judged on four different songs in two appearances unless there are more than ten contestants, in which case the first appearance is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second, or final, appearance to ten.

### **3. Number of Finalist Quartets**

Districts may exercise latitude in the number of finalist quartets, but the contest administrator may increase the number of quartets competing in the finals if he judges that more quartets have a reasonable chance of achieving the target score, which is the score allowing eligibility for the international contest adopted by the Society Board of Directors at its annual midwinter meeting during the year of the international contest in question, after considering the target score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **E. International Quartet Contests**

#### **1. Timing and Supervision**

The annual international quartet contest will be held in conjunction with the Society's annual convention, at a time and place determined by the Society executive director, and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that board.

#### **2. Contestants**

The contestants will be those Society and affiliate quartets that have qualified by their scores or placements in the international preliminary quartet contests, and those quartets from affiliated organizations that may be invited to participate at the discretion of the Society Board of Directors, provided that each quartet earns the minimum score as defined in Article II.C.1.d.

#### **3. Quarterfinals Adjudication**

Each contestant is judged on two different songs in a round known as the international quarterfinals.

#### **4. Semifinals Adjudication**

The twenty highest-scoring quartets plus ties in the quarterfinals will compete in the international semifinals. Each contestant will be judged on two more songs.

#### **5. Finals Adjudication**

The ten highest-scoring quartets plus ties from the semifinals will compete in the international finals. Selection of quartets will be by ranking computed from the combined scores obtained in the quarterfinals and semifinals. Every contestant in the finals will be judged on two more songs.

#### **6. Ranking and Awards**

After the finals round, ranking of quartets will be computed from the combined scores obtained in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals rounds. The first-place quartet will be declared the international quartet champion. Winners of the second, third, fourth, and fifth places will be designated as international medalist quartets, while quartets in sixth through tenth place will be recognized as international finalists.

### **F. International Preliminary Seniors Quartet Contests**

#### **1. Timing and Supervision**

International preliminary seniors quartet contests will be held in each district in the fall of each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that Board.

#### **2. District Semifinal Round**

The international preliminary seniors quartet contest will be the semifinal round of the district quartet contest, whether or not a contestant is also entered in the district contest.

#### **3. Adjudication**

Each quartet is judged on two different songs in one appearance.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **G. International Seniors Quartet Contests**

#### **1. Timing and Supervision**

The annual international seniors quartet contest shall be held in conjunction with the Society's annual midwinter convention at a time and place determined by the Society executive director, and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that board. The seniors quartet contest shall be limited to 25 Society quartets plus quartets from affiliates, such entries consisting of district/affiliate-designated representatives (no more than one per district/affiliate) and quartet-at-large entries.

#### **2. Adjudication**

Each quartet is judged on two different songs in one appearance.

#### **3. Ranking and Awards**

Awards shall be presented to the first through fifth place quartets. The first-place quartet shall be declared the international seniors quartet champion. Winners of the second through fifth places will be designated as international seniors quartet medalists. Special recognition shall be given to the competing quartet with the greatest number of cumulative years of age. Special recognition shall be given to the oldest individual participant.

### **H. International Preliminary Chorus Contests**

#### **1. Timing and Supervision**

International preliminary chorus contests will be held in each district in the fall of each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that board. The international preliminary chorus contest may also be the district chorus contest.

#### **2. Adjudication**

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

### **I. International Chorus Contests**

#### **1. Timing and Supervision**

The annual international chorus contest will be held each year in conjunction with the Society's annual convention, at a time and place determined by the Society executive director, and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors unless otherwise ordered by that board.

#### **2. Contestants**

The contestants will be those Society choruses that are qualified by their scores in the international preliminary chorus contests, and those choruses from affiliated organizations that may be invited to participate by the Society Board of Directors.

#### **3. Adjudication**

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **4. Ranking and Awards**

Awards shall be presented to the first through fifth place choruses. The first place chorus will be declared the international chorus champion. Winners of the second, third, fourth, and fifth places will be designated as international medalist choruses.

## **ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS**

### **A. Official Scoring Summary**

#### **1. Contents**

An official scoring summary will show the district, and division if appropriate, the contest date and location, the scores for each song in each category for each eligible contestant, the total score for each eligible contestant, the names of the songs, and the names of the official panel members.

#### **2. Division, District, and International Preliminary Chorus, Quartet, or Seniors Quartet Contests, International Seniors Quartet Contests, and International Chorus Contests**

An official scoring summary will be published by the contest administrator immediately following the announcement of winners and/or qualifiers. A scoring summary for eliminated quartets may be published by the contest administrator following the conclusion of a semifinals round, according to district policy.

#### **3. International Quartet Contests**

An official scoring summary will be published by the contest administrator immediately after the quarterfinals and semifinals, showing all the scores of the eliminated quartets, and after the finals, showing all the scores of the top ten quartets.

## **ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS**

### **A. Ranking**

Contestants will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges.

### **B. Scores**

The judges will report their scores to the contest administrator immediately following each contestant's performance.

### **C. Ties**

#### **1. First Place Ties**

A tie for first place will be broken by ranking the contestants according to their overall scores in the Singing category or, only if that does not break the tie, according to their overall scores in the Music category. If a tie still exists, the tie will stand.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **2. Other Than First Place**

Except for first-place ties, tie scores will not be broken, and the official scoring summary will list the tied contestants in rank order in accordance with the tie breaking formula.

### **3. Medals**

When a tie situation occurs, any medal(s) specified in Article V that immediately follow(s) the tie ranking will not be awarded. E.g.: With a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> medals are awarded to 1, 2, 2, 4, and 5.

## **D. Ineligibility/Disqualification**

### **1. Reranking**

In the event a contestant is declared ineligible or disqualified for any rule violation after the results are announced or published, their rank order shall be filled by the next ranked contestant and a revised official scoring summary will be published accordingly. All remaining lower-ranked contestants will have their rank order adjusted accordingly.

### **2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards**

If the disqualified or ineligible contestant was given a medal or other award as one of the top-ranked competitors in a contest, all members of the disqualified quartet or chorus must return the awards to the Society or district for award to the appropriate contestant.

## **ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

### **A. Contestants' Order of Appearance (OOA)**

#### **1. Draw for Singing Order; Excused Absence**

The order of appearance will be assigned by random draw. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn; provided, however that the contest administrator, or the district's representative for contest and judging (prior to contest for other than an international contest), may excuse an appearance other than in assigned order owing to circumstances beyond the control of the contestant.

*a. During contest:* The contest administrator will determine whether to give an excused contestant the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session, or if the round consists of multiple sessions, after all other contestants in that contest round.

*b. Prior to a contest other than an international contest:* The district's representative for contest and judging may equitably determine a modification to the order of appearance for reasons beyond the control of the contestants.

### **B. Unexcused Absence**

Any contestant, not excused, that fails to perform in its assigned order of appearance will be penalized. The contest administrator will assess a penalty of five points per scoring judge. A penalized contestant will have the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **C. OOA In Case of Absences by Multiple Contestants**

If there are two or more excused or penalized contestants, their order of appearance will be determined by the contest administrator.

### **D. Failure To Appear During Round**

Any contestant that fails to appear in any round will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round in that contest.

### **E. Request To Sing First In International Chorus Contest**

#### **1. Written Request Prior To Draw**

A chorus participating in the international chorus contest may request in writing to the Society executive director that it be permitted to sing at the beginning of the contest. Such a request must be made and received prior to the draw.

#### **2. Multiple Requests**

If more than one chorus requests to sing at the beginning of the contest, an initial drawing will be held among those choruses to determine the order in which those choruses will sing at the beginning of the contest.

## **ARTICLE IX: SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

### **A. Songs**

#### **1. Barbershop Style**

All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style. [See style definition in Chapter 2 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook*.] A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style.

#### **2. Unaccompanied**

Songs must be sung without any kind of musical accompaniment and without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion. The latter provision applies to both the entire performance and each individual song.

### **B. Chorus Subunits**

In chorus contest performances, selected use of a soloist, duet, trio or quartet is acceptable as long as it is brief and appropriate. At no time should the musical texture exceed four parts.

### **C. Copyright Compliance**

Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs for contest.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **D. Penalties**

Violation of this article will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by one or more judges, as follows:

1. Violations of this article relating to taste and patriotic or religious intent are the responsibility of the Presentation judge(s) only.
2. Violations of this article relating to melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style are the responsibility of the Music judge(s) only.
3. Violations of the remaining portions of this article are the responsibility of all scoring categories, or, in the case of copyright law violations, post-contest action deemed appropriate by the Society executive director.

## **ARTICLE X: SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING**

### **A. Equipment**

#### **1. Provision and Operation; Monitor Speakers Permitted**

The best possible sound equipment will be provided, if needed, by hosts of convention/contests. Monitor speakers are permitted. Sound equipment should be operated by a competent operator.

#### **2. Testing and Approval**

The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested under the supervision of the contest administrator. The contest will not start until the contest administrator has given his approval.

### **B. Restrictions and Exception**

#### **1. Own Equipment**

Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices.

#### **2. Offstage Use of House System**

Contestants may not make offstage use of the house sound system.

#### **3. Recorded Music or Spoken Word**

Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of recorded music (including singing) and/or recordings of the spoken word.

#### **4. Electronic Pitch and Brief Effects**

Contestants may use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited, brief, and relevant sound effects.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **C. Jurisdiction and Penalties**

Violations of this rule are subject to penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Presentation judges(s).

## **ARTICLE XI: STAGING**

### **A. Restrictions**

#### **1. Non-Members**

Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance.

#### **2. Bad Taste**

Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar, or otherwise not in good taste will not be allowed.

### **B. Jurisdiction**

The Presentation judge(s) will have jurisdiction over issues of staging. See the Presentation category description in the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for a discussion of unacceptable staging.

### **C. Penalties**

Violation of this article may result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by one or more Presentation judges.

## **ARTICLE XII: NON-SINGING COMMENT/DIALOGUE**

### **A. Spoken comments**

Non-singing dialogue is generally not a part of a contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted more clearly to establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.

### **B. Penalties**

Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be penalized by the Presentation judge(s) up to and including forfeiture.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES**

#### **A. Forfeiture**

A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero.

#### **B. Inclusion in Official Scoring Summary**

Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.

#### **C. No Public Announcement**

There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture.

### **ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF CONTEST**

#### **A. Contest Administrator Responsibility and Authority**

##### **1. Authority for Contest Operation**

Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the contest administrator is completely in charge of the operation of the contest.

##### **2. Contest Environment**

The contest administrator is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants.

##### **3. Stopping Performance and Rescheduling**

*a. Sole Authority:* The contest administrator alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging, and reschedule part or all of the performance later in the contest.

*b. Repeat Performance:* At his sole discretion, the contest administrator may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest.

*c. Cancellation and Rescheduling:* If the contest administrator must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round and/or contest will be rescheduled by the contest administrator in conjunction with the appropriate administrative body supervising the contest. In making these decisions, the contest administrator will consult with scoring judges as appropriate.

#### **B. Announcements**

Announcement of the results of the contest will be the responsibility of the Society President for international contests and the responsibility of the respective districts for all other contests.

## BHS Contest Rules

### OFFICIAL BHS CONTEST RULES: Revision history

Adopted 6/29/93; Revised 1/28/94; 7/5/94; 7/4/95; 2/2/96; 4/19/97; 11/1/97; 4/4/98; 10/31/98; 1/31/99; 1/31/00;

**1/25/02** amends II.C.1 to include affiliate quartets and set standards for their qualifying scores; updates II.D.1 on seniors contest entry; revises II.D.6 on seniors competing out-of-district.

**4/15/02** corrects typo in II.D.5

**1/24/03** amends I.A.1 quartet membership in the competing district; amends V.F.3 to extend seniors quartet contest awards to fourth and fifth place medalists.

**7/1/03** amends II.C.2 which sets minimum number (40) of quartets at international quartet contest; replaces Article XII in its entirety to describe non-singing dialogue.

**1/30/04** amends I.B.5.c to assign district's representative for contest and judging or the SCJC Chairman (as the case may be) as arbiter of exceptions /or interpretations of eligibility; revises I.B.6 to include three subsections to describe controlling authority of eligibility of members to compete in chorus contests; revises I.B.9 to include three subsections on violations; amends VII to sort printed order of ties on score sheet by tie-breaking formula; cleans up administrative oversight on V.E 2 and 3 to include "plus ties."

**11/06/04** amends II.C.1 to set minimum number of 45 Society quartets at international contest.

**1/28/05** amends IX.D to include category responsibility for adjudicating penalties.

**7/5/05** amends I.A.3 to clarify when a quartet can change its district designation; moves V.D.2 to I.A.4 and clarifies when a quartet must get approval to compete out of district for the international quartet preliminary contest; amends Article VII to clarify medal distribution when a tie situation occurs; updates IX.A and IX.D to clarify harmony consist with barbershop style as performed vice implied

**1/25/06** final formatting and editing

**11/04/06** adds IV.D on use of certified judges from Harmony Incorporated or affiliated organizations; former IV.D renamed IV.E

**1/26/07** amends X.B on use of sound technology.

**3/30/07** amends I.A and I.B to clarify registration as condition of eligibility; expands and reorders violations procedures (now I.C.) to include quartets, set time limits for reports, require signed reports, and anticipate revised scoring summary; moves II.D.6 to I.A.4 for consistent statement on out-of-district permission; amends II.C and II.D to specify entry dates and standard wording; adds II.E on international chorus entry to specify entry date, clarify eligibility certification, and add roster submission; adds II.F to clarify existing policy and procedure on copyright clearance; clarifies in V.A. that term song includes a medley; cleans up V.F.1 as registration requirement is now in I.A.7 and V.A.3; clarifies V.F.3 on international seniors medalists; amends V.G to add minimum score for international wildcard choruses; amends V.H. to define procedure for replacing wildcard chorus; updated V.G.3 and V.H.2 then relocate to II.E.1 & 2 as entry policies; format and spelling corrections.

**7/02/07** clarifies V.D.1 on quartet prelims being held in spring; relocates some II.D.1 language to V.F on seniors quartet preliminaries.

**11/03/07** amends IX.B to permit brief subunits in chorus performances; adds I.B.10 on out-of-district chorus contests; revises I.E.1 and I.E.2 to accommodate potential out-of-district chorus.

**1/25/08** amends II.F on copyright compliance regarding documentation and performance; adds VII.D on ranking and awards after disqualification; rearranges I.B.7-10 to more closely parallel I.A. sections; headings and subheadings provided for clarity and readability; adds table of contents.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

**3/30/08** amends II.B on district contest entry deadline and entry form availability to permit district policy on timing; adds V.A.4 to clarify that districts may hold qualifying rounds for selection of their international contest representatives; amends VIII.A to permit district's representative for contest and judging to amend OOA for good cause and amends VIII.E on the process for international chorus contestant requesting to sing at beginning of contest; amends IX.D.3 to put potential copyright law violations under executive director; clarifies wording of I.A.3 on quartet holding memberships in more than one district.