Official Rules for the Young Singers in Harmony Chorus/Ensemble/Quartet competitions

I. Purpose and Philosophy of the Young Singers In Harmony Music Festivals

1. To expose young men and women to the pleasures of "a cappella" and barbershop harmony singing.
   - We perpetuate and celebrate "a cappella" and barbershop harmony singing.
   - We serve each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education.
   - We serve audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of "a cappella" and barbershop harmony musical entertainment.
   - We serve our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills, and leadership development.
   - We help build better communities and a better world, bonding diverse people through the pure fun of "a cappella" and barbershop harmony.

2. To provide an equitable festival that: supports these aims; provides fair competition in all "a cappella" styles; and recognizes the achievement of newcomers to the genre.

3. To maintain and nurture that interest by encouraging participants to continue singing "a cappella" and barbershop harmony, and to spread that excitement to their fellow students, schools, friends, families and communities.

4. To educate and enrich all competitors through performance, participation, and evaluation.

5. The rules of the YSIH are few. When eligibility questions arise, they will be interpreted by the YSIH contest Coordinator.

II. General Rules

For a performance package of 3 songs.

- For the Barbershop subsection the first two (2) of the songs must be in the barbershop style (see Article V below) and the other song performance in any a cappella style.
- For primary school groups light accompaniment (single instrument is allowable).

1. Certified Australian and International barbershop judges will adjudicate all festivals using current Contest and Judging Rules for the two barbershop songs. The rest of the performance will be judged using the same rules, with allowances for musical and stylistic features not characteristic of the barbershop style.

2. All participating groups will be awarded a rating based on the overall score from the judging panel. Contestants may also elect to be ranked against other groups, and only the scores of contestants choosing to be ranked will be available to the public.

3. All arrangements performed by contestants must be obtained in accordance with international and Australian copyright law.

4. Contestants are responsible for their own travel, food and other expenses incurred while participating in the festival.

5. All groups wishing to participate in YSIH competitions must have their group name approved by the YSIH Coordinator prior to registering for the Festival, so as not to conflict with names already selected and reserved by registered singing organisations/ clubs or other YSIH participants. Approved YSIH participant names will be reserved for as long as the group is active in its community or a participant in YSIH contests. Groups that cease to be active and cease to participate in YSIH events will have their names reserved for not longer than two (2)
years after participating in their last YSIH event. YSIH Champion group names will be retired if the group ceases to exist, and the name will not be available to other YSIH participants.

III. Eligibility

Youth Chorus Competition

1. The Young Singers In Harmony Chorus Competition is for male, female, or mixed choruses, comprised of 12 or more singers, including the director, singing in the a cappella style.
2. The festival is open to young men or women who are 30 years of age or younger, on the date of the festival in which they compete. The average age of each competing group must be less than or equal to 25 years of age.
3. There are no restrictions regarding membership of YSIH or any affiliate organization. Any group which meets the age requirements is eligible to compete in a YSIH competition.
4. Each competing chorus will compete in a category termed Youth Chorus however choruses whose members are all current students of one school (excluding director) can also choose to be assessed for the schools category awards (High School or Primary School) by indicating on the nomination form.
5. Singers in this competition may compete with more than one chorus, but the number of singers two choruses share shall not exceed 25%.
6. Choruses interested in competing at the YSIH competition must register with the YSIH contest coordinator more than 28 days preceding the festival. The final roster of the choruses will be available 21 days before the festival.
7. Upon registration for the YSIH competition, each competing chorus must declare the region, club, or school that it will represent. Questions concerning "home" districts should be directed to the YSIH contest coordinator.
8. The order of appearance will be determined by the YSIH contest coordinator approximately 21 days prior to the festival.
9. Standard choral risers will be provided for each competitor. Any special staging or amplification needs (i.e. microphone for solos, etc.) must be communicated in written form to the YSIH Contest Coordinator at least 30 days before the festival.

IV. Eligibility

Schools Ensemble/Quartet Competition

1. The Young Singers In Harmony Schools ensemble/quartet Competition is for male, female, or mixed groups, comprised of 4 or more singers, singing in the "a cappella" style. An ensemble is defined as group where each voice is singing predominately a discrete voice part.
2. This category is open to boys or girls who are still attending high school or primary school, on the date of the festival in which they compete.
3. There are no restrictions regarding membership of YSIH or any affiliate organization.
4. Singers in this competition may compete with more than one group, but the number of singers two groups share shall not exceed 25%.
5. Groups interested in competing at the YSIH Schools ensemble/quartet competition must register with the YSIH contest coordinator more than 28 days preceding the festival. The final roster of the ensembles/quartets will be available 21 days before the festival.
6. Upon registration for the YSIH competition, each competing group must declare the region, club, or school that it will represent. Questions concerning "home" districts should be directed to the YSIH contest coordinator.
7. The order of appearance will be determined by the YSIH contest coordinator approximately 21 days prior to the festival.
8. Any special staging or amplification needs (i.e. microphone for solos, etc.) must be communicated in written form to the YSIH Contest Coordinator at least 30 days before the festival.

V. The Barbershop Style

Basic characteristics of barbershop harmony:

- Four voice part unaccompanied male female or mix voices.
- Melody in the second voice down (lead, or second tenor). The melody lies within the good quality range for the average lead singer and is free of awkward skips that make it difficult to sing accurately.
• Consonant four-part chords on all notes of the melody, almost completely in root position and second inversion.

• Use of embellishments of many kinds, such as swipes, key changes, echoes, bell chords, etc. to enhance the lyric material of the song.

• A predominance of dominant seventh-type (barbershop seventh) chords, revolving around the circle of fifths.

• The use of barbershop sevenths on roots other than I, IV and V.

• Easily understandable lyrics which are in good taste.

VI. Judging Criteria

For information concerning the current rules refer to the Contest and Judging Handbook found in the Document Centre on the Barbershop Harmony Society website (www.barbershop.org)

A chief characteristic of the barbershop style is its wholesome, "G-rated" entertainment values. Forfeiture, though, may result from one or all judges for:

  o Anyone other than chorus members or the director appearing on stage during the performance.
  o Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar, or otherwise not in good taste, as determined by acceptable, contemporary community standards. The two songs in the barbershop style must be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent. The rest of the performance may be from any genre, as long as it is performed a cappella.
  o Any spoken words deemed excessive or detrimental to the performance. Choruses competing in the barbershop section should not introduce either of their first two songs.
  o Use of contestant’s own electronic sound equipment.
  o Instrumental accompaniment, including instrumental introductions, interludes, or conclusions.

NOTE:

The BHA National Council has the right to amend any Standing Order if emerging circumstances dictate. In this event Club Secretaries and all registered Quartets will be immediately notified of any such variation.