

Champions – What Do We Expect of You?



Congratulations on winning!

Here are a few things that you need to know, now that you are a BHA champion.

Chorus Champions

In their championship year, the gold medal chorus is expected to act as ambassadors for BHA, to promote barbershop singing in Australia, and to encourage new members.

In the following year after winning the gold medal, the chorus may not compete, but is invited to carry out their duty as mic-warmer and/or mic-cooler in the chorus contest and to appear on the Chorus Corral Show and at the Welcome Dinner.

The gold medal chorus is encouraged to ask members in their 'year out' to volunteer for tasks such as marshalling and VIP liaison roles at the BHA National Convention.

Quartet Champions

In their championship year, the gold medal quartet is expected to act as ambassadors for BHA, to promote barbershop singing in Australia, and to encourage new members.

Immediately after winning, the champion Chorus and Quartet may be required to appear at the Farewell Lunch of the Convention.

In the following year after winning the gold medal, the quartet does not compete, but is expected to carry out their duty as mic-warmer and/or mic-cooler in the quartet contest, to perform at the Welcome Dinner, host the John Little Show, and/or other shows during convention, as invited.

Other requirements

Masterclass

You may be asked to provide an opportunity for your group to receive open (public) expert coaching for the benefit of other members. You may also wish to make your chorus available for non-competing members at the following year's convention, as you 'sing off' your gold medal.

Publicity

You may be required to act as media spokesmen for interviews and promotional reasons. It is expected that promotion of BHA be the primary message of these interactions.

Your naming rights

You have approval to use the title of BHA Champion for the year in which you are the current champion. You must then refer defer the title to the next BHA Champion. You then have approval to refer to yourself as the "Year Champion", such as "Sound Connection, 2015 BHA Champion Chorus".

If you re-compete and do not win the champion title, you must refer to your current ranking only and not give the impression that you continue to hold the current title of champion.

Medal Etiquette

Chorus Medals

Each chorus is awarded the same amount of lapel medals as performers on stage during the winning contest. Lost or damaged lapel medals are the responsibility of the owner and replacements may be purchased from BHA for \$20 each.

Each chorus is encouraged to have the lapel medals suitably engraved with the name of the city in which the medal was won, and the year in which it was won, such as “Brisbane 2011”, “Perth 2013” or “Melbourne 2015”.

Chorus members may wear their lapel medals until the day of the following year’s competition. Etiquette for bronze and silver medalists is to then *not* wear your lapel medal until the end of that particular convention, allowing only the retiring gold medal champion chorus to wear its lapel medals for competition day.

Upon completion of the convention, lapel medals may be worn as per usual.

Quartet Medals

Each quartet is awarded a medal on a ribbon, related to the position in which they finished. Lost or damaged lapel medals are the responsibility of the owner and may be replacements may be purchased from BHA for \$50 each.

Each quartet is encouraged to have their medals suitably engraved with the name of the quartet member’s name, the name of the quartet, the city in which the medal was won, and the year in which it was won, such as “John Smith, *Four Smiths*, Brisbane 2011”.

Quartet members may wear their medals until the day of the following year’s competition. Quartets should always wear the most recent medal that they have won if they are still competing as a quartet. However, a quartet medal winner no longer associated with their most recent medal winning quartet can choose which medal they wish to wear (if they have won more than one, and this is usually the highest grade medal won).

Medal Wearing at Other Than BHA National Contests

Usually, you would wear the highest level medal attained. However, for both chorus and quartet you should never wear a medal that was won at a lower level than the contest you are attending, i.e. at an International Contest you should only wear an International medal, not a National one, while at a National Contest you would not wear a Regional medal.

Dress Code

Whilst representing BHA, medalists are to maintain a standard of dress commensurate with the dignity of their position. Smartness, neatness and cleanliness are the inflexible standard and no inappropriate slogans, suggestive clothing or sports attire should be worn.

Code of Behaviour

BHA expects its champions to behave like champions and there is a high level of expectation that you will be a good role model to our membership.

To earn respect, it's important to show that you know your stuff. People will respect and listen to you if they know you are knowledgeable in your field. Here are a few tips:

- Act professionally. Though you may be the champion, you should still be cordial to all of your colleagues. You should also still meet the basic standards of professionalism such as; dressing appropriately, coming to events and meetings on time, and communicating in a professional manner.
- Give credit where credit is due. We've all seen the gloating self-absorbed quartet or chorus member bragging after winning a medal, forgetting the fact that teammates were there contributing the entire performance. Winning champions share the credit, and praise their fellow competitors, coaches, and quartet and chorus mates. Even if you're feeling particularly proud of what you accomplished, find something to praise about others who competed. Staying humble and showing perspective is an absolutely essential part of being a great champion.
- We all like to think of ourselves and self-starters who are responsible for our own success, but try to widen perspective to see the bigger picture. Your success as a champion is dependent upon your family, your friends, your coaches, and even the people working the sound and lighting or driving the bus you use to get to and from the venue are contributing to your success. Don't forget that, big shot.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Though you may be the champion, it's important to be humble and polite.
- If you're singing with others, offer them encouragement. Instead of showing off and being mean when they sing a wrong note, show them how to improve their singing and craft and compliment them when appropriate.
- Be fun at social events. Make sure to show up to social events first and to leave last. Show that you love being a leader of your art form from start to finish. This will help you get to know your fellow singers and to deepen your bond.

Above all, be aware of and promote the [BHA Code of Ethics](#). In line with its parent body, the Barbershop Harmony Society, BHA aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members the sacred right to seek haven from the burden of our daily cares through indulgence in old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of the Code of Ethics.

1. We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate Barbershop Harmony Australia.
2. We shall deport ourselves and conduct Barbershop Harmony Australia's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon Barbershop Harmony Australia and its membership.
3. We shall conform in all respects to the bylaws of Barbershop Harmony Australia and the rules from time to time promulgated by its National Council.
4. We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonise.
5. We shall exhibit a spirit of good fellowship toward all members.
6. We shall refrain from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears.
7. We shall not use our membership in Barbershop Harmony Australia for personal gain.
8. We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of Barbershop Harmony Australia.
9. We shall, by our stimulus to good music and vocal harmony, endeavour to spread the spirit of harmony throughout the world.
10. We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony.