

STANDING ORDER 6A

CONTEST RULES FOR YOUNG SINGERS IN HARMONY

Official Rules for the Young Singers in Harmony Youth Chorus and Ensemble contests.

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;
 - by perpetuating and celebrating a cappella and barbershop harmony singing.
 - by serving each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education.
 - by serving audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of a cappella and barbershop harmony musical entertainment.
 - by serving our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills, and leadership development.
 - by helping build better communities and a better world, bonding diverse people through the pure fun of a cappella and barbershop harmony.
 - a. To provide an equitable festival that: supports these aims; provides fair competition in all a cappella styles; and recognises the achievement of newcomers to the genre.
2. 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.
3. To educate and enrich all competitors through performance, participation, and evaluation.

II. General Rules

1. The rules of the YSIH are few. When eligibility questions arise, the YSIH contest coordinator will interpret them.
2. In each contest below, groups must present a performance package of three (3) songs in any a cappella style.
3. In each contest below, groups may also choose to enter the barbershop sub-section of their contest (see Article IV below) by performing three (3) songs, the first two (2) in the barbershop style *and* the other song in any a cappella style.
4. For primary schools, light accompaniment (single instrument) is allowable.
5. Certified Australian and/or international barbershop judges will adjudicate all festivals using current Barbershop Contest and Judging Rules for the two barbershop songs. The rest of the performances will be judged using the same rules, with allowances for musical and stylistic features not characteristic of the barbershop style.
6. 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.
7. All arrangements performed by contestants must be obtained in accordance with international and Australian copyright law.
8. Contestants are responsible for their own travel, food and other expenses incurred while participating in the festival.

9. All groups wishing to participate in YSIH contests must have their group name approved by the YSIH Coordinator prior to registering for the Festival, so as not to conflict with names already 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

NOTE: In any determination of eligibility based upon age criteria, the determination shall be made excluding any music director/conductor.

A. Chorus Contest

1. The Young Singers In Harmony Chorus Contest is for male, female, or mixed choruses, comprised of 8 or more singers, excluding the director, singing in the a cappella style.
2. The festival is open to young men or women 25 years of age or younger, on the date of the festival in which they compete.
3. 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 (Secondary School or Primary School) by indicating on the nomination form.
4. There are no restrictions regarding membership of YSIH or any affiliate organisation. Any group meeting the age requirements is eligible to compete in a YSIH contest.
4. Singers in this contest may compete with more than one chorus, but the number of singers two choruses share shall not exceed 25% of the smaller chorus' membership.
5. 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.
6. The YSIH contest coordinator will determine the order of appearance approximately 21 days prior to the festival.
7. 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 21 days before the festival.

B. Ensemble Contest

1. The Young Singers In Harmony Ensemble Contest is for male, female, or mixed groups of four (4) to seven (7) singers, singing in the a cappella style. An ensemble is defined as a group where each voice is singing predominately a discrete voice part.
2. The contest is open to young men or women aged 25 years or younger on the date of the festival in which they compete.
3. Each contestant will compete in a category termed Youth Ensemble, however contestants whose members are all current students of one school can also choose to be assessed for the Schools Category Awards (Secondary School or Primary School) by indicating on the nomination

form.

4. There are no restrictions regarding membership of YSIH or any affiliate organisation.
5. Singers in this contest may compete with more than one group, but the number of singers two groups share shall not exceed 25% of the smaller group's membership.
6. Groups interested in competing at the YSIH Ensemble contest must register with the YSIH Contest Coordinator more than 28 days preceding the festival. The final roster of the Quartet/Ensembles will be available approximately 21 days before the festival.
7. The YSIH Contest Coordinator will determine the order of appearance 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 21 days before the festival.

IV. 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.

V. 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:

- Anyone other than chorus members or the director appearing on stage during the performance.
- 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.

- 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.
- Use of contestant's own electronic sound equipment.
- Instrumental accompaniment, including instrumental introductions, interludes, or conclusions.

VI. Awards

In summary the awards will be:

Youth Chorus Division

1. Mixed Chorus
2. Female Chorus
3. Male Chorus
4. Barbershop Chorus Female
5. Barbershop Chorus Male
6. Barbershop Chorus Mixed

Schools Chorus Division

1. Mixed Chorus
2. Girls Chorus
3. Boys Chorus
4. Barbershop Chorus Girls
5. Barbershop Chorus Boys
6. Barbershop Chorus Mixed

Youth Ensemble Division

1. Mixed Ensemble
2. Female Ensemble
3. Male Ensemble
4. Barbershop Quartet Female
5. Barbershop Quartet Male
6. Barbershop Quartet Mixed

Schools Ensemble Division

1. Mixed Ensemble
2. Girls Ensemble
3. Boys Ensemble
4. Barbershop Quartet Girls
5. Barbershop Quartet Boys
6. Barbershop Quartet Mixed

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 Groups will be immediately notified of any such variation