

Standing Order 6
CONTEST RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. AAMBS/BHA

1.1.1. The abbreviation AAMBS shall mean *Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers Inc.*

1.1.2. The abbreviation BHA shall mean the AAMBS trading name *Barbershop Harmony Australia.*

1.2. BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

1.2.1. The American organisation known by that name, with abbreviation BHS.

1.3. MEMBERS OF BHA

1.3.1. The term 'member(s) of BHA' includes the requirement that the person(s) be financial with BHA.

1.4. AGE CALCULATIONS

1.4.1. The terms 'years of age', 'aggregate age' and 'average age' require that the age to which they refer shall be determined from the whole number of birthday anniversaries the member has. Thus, fractions of one year shall not be included at any stage of the calculation.

1.5. SENIOR QUARTET

1.5.1. A Senior Quartet is a male quartet in which all members are 55 years of age or over and the aggregate age of all members is at least 240 years.

1.6. YOUTH QUARTET

1.6.1. A Youth Quartet is a male quartet in which all members are 25 years of age or under.

1.7. MIXED QUARTET

1.7.1. A Mixed Quartet must contain at least one (1) female member and one (1) male member.

1.8. INVITATIONAL QUARTET OR CHORUS

1.8.1. An Invitational Quartet or Chorus is a group that may or may not contain BHA Members or Associate Members, and may include all-female groups, invited by BHA to compete.

1.9. SMALL CHORUS

1.9.1. A Small Chorus is a male chorus that consists of at least 8 performers, and has 16 performers or less, excluding the Music Director.

1.10. MEDIUM CHORUS

1.10.1. A Medium Chorus is a male chorus that consists of more than 16 performers and 30 performers

or less, excluding the Music Director.

1.11. LARGE CHORUS

1.11.1. A Large Chorus is a male chorus that consists of more than 30 performers excluding the Music Director.

1.12. MIXED CHORUS

1.12.1. A Mixed Chorus comprises no more than 60% male or 60% female members (“mixed chorus ratio”), excluding the Music Director. The mixed chorus ratio may exceed 60% only if the addition or subtraction of one singer makes the difference, e.g. a chorus with 16 male and 11 female singers, would have a mixed chorus ratio of 59.3% and therefore meets the requirement. Under this provision, the addition of a male singer, bringing the chorus to 17 male and 11 female singers would be 60.7%, however, would be allowable, because the subtraction of the one male singer would move the mixed chorus ratio back below 60%.

1.13. NATIONAL MEDALLIST

1.13.1. A National Medallist quartet or chorus is any quartet or chorus that has won a medal at an AAMBS or BHA National contest. This rank is attained the first time such a medal is won, and is retained in perpetuity.

Note: All Regulations relating to National contests apply equally to open, age-dependent or mixed contests. In such cases, the medallists will be differentiated from their Open contest counterparts by a suitable preceding qualifier to their rank e.g. 'Senior Gold Medallist', 'Youth Gold Medallist', or 'Mixed Gold Medallist'.

1.14. NATIONAL CHAMPION

1.14.1. A BHA National Champion quartet or chorus is a National Medallist quartet or chorus that has won a gold medal at an AAMBS or BHA National contest. This rank is attained the first time such a medal is won, and is retained in perpetuity.

Note: All Regulations relating to National contests apply equally to open, age-dependent or mixed contests. In such cases, the champions will be differentiated from their Open contest counterparts by a suitable preceding qualifier to their rank e.g. 'Senior Champion', 'Youth Champion', or 'Mixed Champion'.

1.15. APPROVED JUDGING SESSION

1.15.1. A session approved by BHA Council, in which performers are judged by a panel of at least one judge per Scoring Category and controlled by at least one Contest Administrator. Judges and Contest Administrators shall be appointed by BHA Council in accordance with this Standing Order, Clause 6 - CONTEST JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATORS. The environment for and control of performances shall be in accordance with this Standing Order. Performances may be, or participation in a contest, for Evaluation Only i.e. judged and scored but not participating in any contest, and may be presented via Video Recording if so prescribed by BHA Council. Any Video Recording presentation shall be in accordance with BHA Standing Order 7 - Rules for Video Assessments of Quartets.

1.16. QUALIFICATION

1.16.1. A process in which scores gained in an Approved Judging Session are used to determine the right of a performer to participate in a following National Contest. Regional Contests are automatically accepted as an Approved Judging Session, whether or not they allow judging by video recording.

1.16.2. The Regional Contest entered does not need to have the same age requirements as the National Contest to which the performer seeks qualification.

- 1.16.3. Scores gained by a performer requesting 'Evaluation Only', i.e. requesting to be judged but not entered in a contest, can be used for qualification purposes.
- 1.16.4. A quartet wishing to qualify must enter the Regional Contest in the region where the majority of its members reside. If an equal number of members reside in more than one region, then the quartet may nominate which Regional Contest they will compete in. Once the quartet has nominated a region it must continue to compete in that region in subsequent years. If a quartet cannot be at the appropriate Regional Contest in person, then it can lodge a video entry under Standing Order 7 - Rules for Video Assessments of Quartets.
- 1.16.5. Other arrangements (e.g. an out of region contest entry or a special entry without qualification) may be approved by BHA Council in exceptional circumstances, on receipt of a written application by the performer before the date of the Regional Contest where the majority of its members reside. That application must state the reasons why the appropriate Regional Contest Judging Session cannot be attended by the performer either in person and/or by video.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

2.1. APPLICABILITY

- 2.1.1. These Rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests within BHA. In matters not specifically covered by these rules the BHA Council may exercise reasonable latitude and prerogative provided that the established ethics and policies of the Barbershop Harmony Society are observed in principle.

2.2. SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS

- 2.2.1. BHA may issue special Contest Rules to cover specific contests. Such special rules may override provisions of these Rules.

3. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

3.1. GENERAL

- 3.1.1. For contests staged as part of a convention program, every competing singer and chorus musical director must be a registered delegate to that convention.
- 3.1.2. Because of the requirement that individual qualification to a National Contest will be determined by BHA Council, delays will occur between a performance for the purpose of qualification and notification to the performer of their qualification status. The process of determining qualifications will be carried out in the following sequence:
- 3.1.2.1. Immediately on completion of all Approved Judging Sessions being used to determine Qualifications to National Contests, scores from all such Judging Sessions will be compiled and presented to BHA Council.
- 3.1.2.2. All performers will be notified whether or not they have achieved the minimum score required for qualification to each National Contest for which they would be eligible regardless of age limited contests. In the same communication, those that have achieved any minimum score will be invited to submit a Contest Entry Form indicating which National Contests they wish to enter.
- 3.1.2.3. Immediately after the Closing Date stated on the Contest Entry Forms for the National Contests, a listing of performers that have received an invitation as described above and have submitted a

Contest Entry Form shall be provided to BHA Council. That listing shall include information indicating all the contests to which each performer has requested entry.

3.1.2.4. For contests which have no limit on the number of contestants to be accepted, all Contest Entry requests will be accepted and the performers notified of that acceptance.

3.1.2.5. For contests which have a limit on the number of contestants to be accepted, that number of Contest Entry requests from the top-scoring qualifiers will be accepted and those performers notified of that acceptance. The remaining performers will be advised that their Contest Entry request has not been accepted due to the number limit on the contest.

3.1.3. All communications to and from performers during the process described above shall be with the Contest Administrator or their representative for the National Contests involved.

3.2. QUARTETS

3.2.1. All members of competing quartets (except Invitational Quartets) must be members of BHA.

3.2.2. All competing quartets must be registered with BHA at least 21 days prior to entry to the contest and at the time of the contest. Note: In order that a quartet's registration with BHA be valid, it must comply with the requirements of Standing Order 5 – Regulations for Quartets.

3.2.3. A competing quartet must not contain more than one member of another quartet competing in the same contest.

3.2.4. To be eligible to enter a Senior Quartet contest, a quartet must meet the Senior Quartet definition (Clause 1.5) on the date of the contest.

3.2.5. To be eligible to enter a Youth Quartet contest, a quartet must meet the Youth Quartet definition (Clause 1.6) on the date of the contest.

3.2.6. To be eligible to enter a Mixed Quartet contest, a quartet must meet the Mixed Quartet definition (Clause 1.7) on the date of the contest.

3.2.7. To be eligible to enter an Invitational Quartet contest, a quartet must meet the Invitational Quartet definition (Clause 1.8) on the date of the contest.

3.2.8. A quartet may change one member between qualifying for a national contest, and the National contest itself. Any change must be reflected in the quartet's registration with BHA prior to the commencement of the national contest.

3.2.9. A National Champion Open quartet may not compete in any BHA Regional or National contest during the calendar year following the calendar year in which the rank of National Champion was last achieved (i.e. a one-year stand- down applies).

3.2.10. No quartet competing in a BHA National contest may contain more than two members of a National Champion quartet that is barred from that contest under Clause 3.2.9.

3.3. CHORUSES

3.3.1. All members of competing choruses (except Invitational Choruses) must be members of BHA and financial members of each club they choose to represent in the contest, or be formally invited by BHA to join the contest.

- 3.3.2. All competing choruses must be registered with BHA as a male or mixed chorus at least 21 days prior to entry to the contest, and at the time of the contest, except where invited under Clause 3.2.1. Note: In order that a chorus's registration with BHA be valid, it must comply with the requirements of Standing Order 4 – Regulations for Choruses.
- 3.3.3. A competing chorus may comprise singers competing with more than one chorus, but the number of singers two choruses share shall not exceed 75% of the smaller chorus's membership.
- 3.3.4. If directed on stage, a competing chorus must be so directed by a member of BHA, except where invited under Clause 3.3.1. Any chorus may be directed by a male or female member of BHA.
- 3.3.5. The National Champion Open chorus may not compete in any BHA Regional or National contest during the calendar year following the calendar year in which the rank of National Champion was last achieved (i.e. a one-year stand-down applies).
- 3.3.6. Nothing in these Rules will be so construed as to limit the rights of a chorus to appoint or replace its chorus director at any time, so long as the chorus director is a member of BHA.

4. CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

- 4.1. A contest entry form will be available from the BHA Secretary or their designate, at least 30 days prior to the contest. Following a qualification contest, qualifiers will be notified of their eligibility to compete and invited to enter the contest for which qualification was thereby obtained.
- 4.2. Completed entries for the contest must be received by the Contest Administrator at least 14 days prior to the contest date.
- 4.3. A contestant entering an Open, Senior, Youth, Mixed or Invitational Quartet contest or an Open, Mixed or Invitational Chorus contest must declare the contests to be entered on their contest entry form, and declare themselves eligible for the contests so entered.

5. SCORING CATEGORIES

- 5.1. Each scoring judge awards a score from 0 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories:
 - 5.1.1. SINGING
 - 5.1.1.1. The Singing judge will evaluate 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, unmanufactured, and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to fully communicate the theme of the song.
 - 5.1.2. MUSIC
 - 5.1.2.1. The Music judge will evaluate the song and arrangement, as performed. They will adjudicate the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments.
 - 5.1.2.2. The Music judge will judge 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. They will

adjudicate the degree to which the musical elements of the song and the arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

5.1.3. PERFORMANCE

5.1.3.1. The Performance judge will evaluate entertainment within the barbershop style. Vocal and visual elements, in the context of the song choice and delivery, are evaluated for their contribution to the overall entertainment effect of the performance. The Performance judge will evaluate the degree to which the performer built a rapport with an audience and used creativity, artistry and expressiveness to deliver a performance that is from the heart. Performances that are truly integrated, entertaining, and artistic should be encouraged and should provide a more rewarding experience for the audience than those with accumulated technique or mannered/patterned characteristics.

6. CONTEST JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- 6.1. All Contest judges for BHA National or Regional contests shall be listed in the Barbershop Harmony Society's "Official Register of Certified Judges and Administrators" or be certified members of Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges.
- 6.2. All Contest judges for BHA National or Regional contests shall judge only in a scoring category for which they are qualified.
- 6.3. All Contest Administrators and Assistant Contest Administrators for BHA National or Regional contests shall be certified members of Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges.
- 6.4. BHA National Contests shall have at least two panels of judges (or more, depending on the number of contest entries), with at least one panel being from the Barbershop Harmony Society's "Official Register of Certified Judges and Administrators." Additional panels shall contain only certified members of Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges or judges listed in the Barbershop Harmony Society's "Official Register of Certified Judges and Administrators".
- 6.5. BHA National Contests shall be controlled by one or more Contest Administrators with the support of additional Assistant Contest Administrators as required.
- 6.6. BHA Regional Contests shall have at least a single panel of judges and a Contest Administrator.
- 6.7. BHA Contest judges from the BHS are appointed by the Chair of its International Contest and Judging Committee in collaboration with the Chair of the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges.
- 6.8. BHA Contest judges from the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges shall be nominated by its Chair, and approved by the BHA Council.
- 6.9. Contest Administrators and Assistant Contest Administrators for BHA contests shall be nominated by the Chairman of the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges, and approved by the BHA Council.

7. CONTESTS AND AWARDS

7.1. DEFINITIONS

7.1.1. OPEN CHORUS AND OPEN QUARTET CONTESTS

7.1.1.1. An Open contest shall have no age restrictions on entry and may be entered only by a male chorus and a male quartet respectively. The contestants are ranked according to the total of their scores allocated by the judges during the contest.

7.1.2. SENIOR QUARTET CONTEST

7.1.2.1. A Senior Quartet Contest may be entered by Senior quartets only.

7.1.3. YOUTH QUARTET CONTEST

7.1.3.1. A Youth Quartet Contest may be entered by Youth quartets only.

7.1.4. MIXED QUARTET CONTEST

7.1.4.1. A Mixed Quartet Contest may be entered by Mixed quartets only.

7.1.5. INVITATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST

7.1.5.1. An Invitational Quartet Contest is only held at Regional Events and may be entered by Invitational quartets only.

7.1.6. MIXED CHORUS CONTEST

7.1.6.1. A Mixed Chorus Contest may be entered by Mixed Choruses only.

7.1.7. INVITATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST

7.1.7.1. An Invitational Chorus Contest is only held at Regional Events and may be entered by Invitational Choruses only.

7.1.8. MOST IMPROVED QUARTET AWARD

7.1.8.1. The Most Improved Quartet is the male quartet that has the greatest increase in score between the current and the immediately preceding contest of similar grade, in either the Open (semi-final), Senior or Youth Quartet Contest. A quartet must have participated in the immediately preceding contest to be eligible for this award. (For clarification, only one Most Improved Quartet Award will be made, but it could be in Open, Senior or Youth category).

7.1.9. SMALL CHORUS AWARD

7.1.9.1. The Small Chorus Award is for a chorus meeting the Definition of a Small Chorus.

7.1.10. MEDIUM CHORUS AWARD

7.1.10.1. The Medium Chorus Award is for a chorus meeting the Definition of a Medium Chorus.

7.1.11. LARGE CHORUS AWARD

7.1.11.1. The Large Chorus Award is for a chorus meeting the Definition of a Large Chorus.

7.1.12. MOST IMPROVED CHORUS AWARD

7.1.12.1. The Most Improved Chorus is the Open chorus that has the greatest increase in score between the current contest and the immediately preceding contest of similar grade. A chorus must have participated in the immediately preceding contest to be eligible for this award.

7.1.13. MATURE CHORUS AWARD

7.1.13.1. The Mature Chorus Award is for a male chorus, and is determined by multiplying the average age of the performing members of the chorus (excluding the MD) by its contest points score.

7.2. PRESENTATIONS

7.2.1. BHA Contests will attract presentation of medals as determined by the number of contestants in a contest, as follows:

Fewer than 4: 1st only;
Fewer than 6: 1st and 2nd only;
6 or more: 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and up to 5th as appropriate.

7.2.2. In any BHA Regional or National contest, presentation of medals will only be made to competitors who score greater than 60 percentage points. For scores of 60 percentage points and lower, certificates may be presented.

7.2.3. Quartet Medals, if presented, shall be as follows:

1st:	Gold	Blue ribbon
2nd:	Silver	Red ribbon
3rd:	Bronze	Yellow ribbon
4th:	Bronze	Green ribbon (National Open Quartet contest only)
5th:	Bronze	White ribbon (National Open Quartet contest only)

7.2.4. Chorus medals, if presented, shall be as follows:

1st:	Gold	
2nd:	Silver	
3rd:	Bronze	
4th:	Bronze	(National Chorus Contest only)
5th:	Bronze	(National Chorus Contest only)

7.2.5. BHA Awards will be determined from scores obtained in BHA Contests, and will attract the presentation of one trophy and/or certificate.

7.3. QUARTET CONTESTS

7.3.1. Quartets meeting the eligibility requirements may enter any contest stage for which they have qualified. All competing quartets will perform two songs in each contest entered. Where contests or contest stages are conducted in conjunction with one another, two songs only will be sung, and the scores for those songs used to determine the results of each of those contests or contest stages.

7.3.2. A National Open Quartet Contest will be conducted in two stages:

- a) a National Open Semi-final Stage, and
- b) a National Open Final Stage.

7.3.2.1. Qualification to the National Open Contest Semi-final Stage will be determined by BHA Council,

based upon scores obtained at an Approved Judging Session — see Clause 1.15 QUALIFICATION — with a minimum score of 55% or other proportion as determined by the BHA National Council. A maximum of 30 quartets will qualify.

- 7.3.2.2. Qualification to a National Open Final Stage will be obtained by the quartets ranked 1 to 10 by score (including ties) in the associated National Open Semi-final Stage. The songs sung by a quartet in a National Open Semi-final Stage shall not be sung by it in the associated National Open Final Stage.
- 7.3.2.3. In a National Open Quartet Contest, the scores used to determine the ranking of quartets shall be the sum of their scores in the Semi-final and Final Stages.
- 7.3.2.4. In a National Open Quartet Contest only, a 4th and 5th bronze medal may be awarded where there are more than 20 quartets in the contest, and where the 4th or 5th placed quartet attains a score greater than 70 percentage points.
- 7.3.3. The National Senior, Youth and Mixed Quartet contests will be conducted in one stage, which may be independent of, or run in conjunction with, the National Open Semi-final Stage.
- 7.3.3.1. Qualification to a National Senior, Youth or Mixed Quartet Contest will be determined by BHA Council, based upon scores obtained at an Approved Judging Session — see Clause 1.15 QUALIFICATION — with a minimum score of 55% or other proportion as determined by the BHA National Council.
- 7.3.3.2. There will be a limit of ten (10) Mixed Quartets in a National contest ranked by their qualifying score.
- 7.3.4. Quartets from the National Open, Senior, and Youth Contests may qualify to represent BHA at the BHS International contest that immediately follows the National Contest (i.e. if qualify in 2017, then nominated for 2018), if they meet the BHS Target Score.
- 7.3.4.1. BHA will nominate Medallist Quartets in the following order: the Gold medallist (who may elect to compete at the next International Contest), if they decline, the nomination will be offered to the Silver medallist, and then similarly to the Bronze medallist.
- 7.3.4.2. BHA is only entitled to nominate one quartet for each International Contest as long as they meet BHS requirements as published from time to time. Other quartets may qualify according to article 7.3.5.
- 7.3.4.3. Youth Quartets, once nominated by BHA, are required to follow the BHS Next Generation Barbershop (NGB) video entry guidelines.
- 7.3.5. In addition to the nominations in article 7.3.4, any BHA quartet attaining the BHS Minimum Qualifying Score (currently 78 percentage points) by a panel of at least 3 BHS judges will be invited, at their request, by BHA to submit a video of their contest performance to BHS for review and assessment, and may be invited by BHS to represent Australia at the International immediately following the BHA National Contest.
- 7.3.5.1. Any Minimum Qualifying Score attained in front of at least a double panel of BHS judges will automatically qualify that quartet for BHS International.
- 7.3.6. Any male quartet receiving a financial grant from BHA to attend an International Contest will be expected to attend a number of engagements for barbershoppers throughout Australia as specified by the BHA Council.
- 7.3.7. Any Mixed quartet may qualify to represent BHA at an appropriate internationally convened contest or event. Any such representation or nomination will be made by the BHA National Council using similar

guidelines to those specified above in 7.3.4.

7.4. CHORUSES

- 7.4.1. All competing choruses will perform two songs in each contest entered. Where contests are conducted in conjunction with one another, two songs only will be sung, and the scores for those songs used to determine the results of each of those contests.
- 7.4.2. A National Open Chorus Contest will be conducted in one stage.
 - 7.4.2.1. In a National Open Chorus Contest only, a 4th and 5th bronze medal may be awarded where there are more than 20 choruses in the contest, and where the 4th or 5th placed chorus attain a score greater than 70 percentage points.
- 7.4.3. A National Mixed Chorus Contest may be conducted in conjunction with a National Open Contest.
- 7.4.4. National Chorus Most Improved, Size Division (Small, Medium and Large) and Mature Chorus awards will be determined from scores attained in a National Open Chorus Contest.
- 7.4.5. There will be a limit of five (5) Mixed choruses allowed to compete in any National contest, with qualification conducted as per Clause 1.15; a minimum score of 55% being required. The highest scoring five (5) Mixed choruses scoring the minimum or above will be eligible to compete.
- 7.4.6. Choruses from the National Open Chorus Contest may qualify to represent BHA at the BHS International Contest that occurs between one and two years after the National Contest (i.e. if qualify in 2017, then nominated for 2019). As a BHS Alliance organisation, BHA will nominate Medallist Choruses in the following order: The Gold medallist may elect to compete. If they decline then the nomination will be offered to the Silver medallist, and similarly then to the Bronze medallist. BHA can only nominate one chorus to compete at International each year.
- 7.4.7. A Mixed chorus may be nominated to represent BHA at an internationally convened contest or event. Any such representation or nomination will be made by the BHA National Council using similar guidelines to those specified above in 7.4.4.

8. OFFICIAL RESULTS

- 8.1. An official scoring summary will be published by the Contest Administrator immediately following the announcement of the winners of any contest.
- 8.2. At the discretion of the BHA Council the official scoring summary may show:
 - 8.2.1. the contest date and location;
 - 8.2.2. the points scores for each song in each category for each eligible contestant in the order Singing, Music, Presentation, with the total points score indicated;
 - 8.2.3. the total score for each eligible contestant also expressed as a percentage of the total possible score;
 - 8.2.4. the names of the songs sung by each contestant in the order sung, and
 - 8.2.5. the names and positions of the judges and contest administrators.

9. RANKING OF CONTESTANTS

- 9.1. Contestants will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges. The judges will report their points score to the Contest Administrator immediately following each contestant's performance.
- 9.2. A tie 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 Performance category. If a tie still exists, the tie will stand.
- 9.3. Where contestants remain tied, each will be allotted the same place number, and the next lowest scorer will be allotted a place number as if the tied contestants had been allotted sequential place numbers.

10. ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- 10.1. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn by lot, unless the Contest Administrator excuses such appearance owing to circumstances beyond the control of the contestants. The Contest Administrator will determine whether to give an excused contestant the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.
- 10.2. Any contestant not previously excused by the Contest Administrator, that fails to perform in its assigned order of appearance in a contest session will be penalised five points in each scoring category. A penalised contestant will have the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.
- 10.3. If there are two or more excused or penalised contestants, their order of appearance will be determined by the Contest Administrator.
- 10.4. The Contest Administrator will adjust any drawn quartet Order of Appearance so that a person performing in more than one quartet will not be required to be on stage with less than two other performances between their appearances.

11. SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1. A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and implied harmony consistent with the barbershop style. All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style, which is an unaccompanied vocal style of music. 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.
 - 11.1.1. Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, and learning of songs used in contest performance.

12. SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING

- 12.1. The best possible sound equipment, with competent operators, will be provided if needed. Monitor speakers are permitted. The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the contest starting time 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 approval.
- 12.2. No changes to sound or lighting equipment will be made during a contest session, unless specifically approved by the Contest Administrator, and shall be only for the sole purpose of correcting a malfunction.
- 12.3. Contestants may not use their own electronic amplification. Violation of this rule may result in forfeiture by the Performance judge.

13. STAGING

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

13.1.1. Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar or otherwise not in good taste may be penalised by the judges.

13.1.2. The Performance judge will have jurisdiction over issues of staging. Further information on unacceptable staging is available in the Presentation category of the Barbershop Harmony Society *Contest and Judging Handbook*.

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

14. COMMENT

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

15. PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

15.1. A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture. Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.

15.2. Known or suspected infringements or potential infringements of rules governing contestant membership should be reported to the Contest Administrator, who may disqualify an offending contestant from taking part in the contest, or, if the contest has started, apply a total forfeiture penalty or remove the contestant from the official contest results.

16. OPERATION OF THE CONTEST

16.1. Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the Contest Administrator is completely in charge of the operation of the contest. Announcement of the results of the contest will be the responsibility of the Contest Administrator.

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

16.3. At their sole discretion, the Contest Administrator may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest. If the Contest Administrator must cancel a session or an entire contest, that session 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.

17. INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

17.1. For contests staged by BHA and involving international contestants, the BHA National Council may approve an adaptation of these rules which takes into account differences between these rules and those of the organisation to which the international participants belong. Notwithstanding this, should a conflict remain, the rules approved

by the BHA National Council for the event will take precedence.

18. PARTICIPATION BY ASSOCIATED BODIES

18.1. For or contests staged by bodies associated with BHA and involving contestants from such bodies, the BHA National Council may approve a special Standing Order which takes into account differences between these rules and those of the associated body to which the competing participants belong.

REFERENCES:

- A.** Standing Order 4 - Regulations for Choruses.
- B.** Standing Order 5 - Regulations for Quartets.
- C.** Standing Order 7 - Rules for Video Assessments of Quartets.

NOTE: The BHA 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.