

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 *Barbershop Harmony Australia*, and shall include the BHA National Council and its appointed Contest & Judging representatives.

1.2. BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY (BHS)

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 age at last birthday.

1.5. GENDER IDENTITY

1.5.1. At the time of contest entry, a competitor's gender identity shall be as recorded in the BHA membership database, and their eligibility to compete in the various gender division contests will be determined. They should therefore ensure that their gender identity is up to date in the BHA membership database at least 7 days before contest entry by contacting and advising the BHA Executive Assistant (admin@barbershop.org.au).

1.6. MEN'S QUARTET

1.6.1. A Men's Quartet consists only of members who identify as male.

1.7. WOMEN'S QUARTET

1.7.1. A Women's Quartet consists only of members who identify as female.

1.8. MIXED QUARTET

1.8.1. A Mixed Quartet consists of members in a combination of two or more gender identities. A quartet consisting of four non-binary singers will also be classed as a Mixed Quartet.

1.9. SENIOR QUARTET

1.9.1. A Senior Quartet is a Men's, Women's or Mixed quartet in which all members are 55 years of age or over

and the aggregate age of all members is at least 240 years.

1.10. YOUTH QUARTET

1.10.1. A Youth Quartet is a Men's, Women's or Mixed quartet in which all members are 25 years of age or under.

1.11. NOVICE QUARTET

1.11.1. A Novice Quartet is a Men's, Women's or Mixed quartet in which a maximum of only one member has competed before in a quartet in a BHA National contest (therefore at least three members have never competed in a quartet in a BHA National contest before).

1.12. MEN'S CHORUS

1.12.1. A Men's Chorus comprises singers who all identify as male. The gender identity of the director is not relevant.

1.13. WOMEN'S CHORUS

1.13.1. A Women's Chorus comprises singers who all identify as female. The gender identity of the director is not relevant.

1.14. MIXED CHORUS

1.14.1. A Mixed Chorus comprises singers who identify as a combination of two or more gender identities, with a maximum of 75% of either male or female gender identity. The gender identity of the director is not relevant.

1.15. SENIOR CHORUS

1.15.1. A Senior Chorus comprises singers whose average age equals 60 years or greater. The age of the director is not relevant.

1.16. YOUTH CHORUS

1.16.1. A Youth Chorus comprises singers who are all BHA Youth members (i.e. aged 25 years or under). The age of the director is not relevant.

1.17. INVITATIONAL QUARTET OR CHORUS

1.17.1. An Invitational Quartet or Chorus is a group that may or may not contain BHA Members, and is invited by BHA to compete or sing for evaluation.

1.18. SMALL CHORUS

1.18.1. A Small Chorus is a chorus that consists of at least 9 singers, and has 16 singers or less, excluding the Music Director.

1.19. MEDIUM CHORUS

1.19.1. A Medium Chorus is a chorus that consists of more than 16 singers and 30 singers or less, excluding the

Music Director.

1.20. LARGE CHORUS

1.20.1. A Large Chorus is a chorus that consists of more than 30 singers excluding the Music Director.

1.21. NATIONAL MEDALLIST

1.21.1. 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, men's, women's, mixed or age-dependent contests. In such cases, the medallists will be differentiated from their counterparts by a suitable preceding qualifier to their rank e.g. 'Men's Senior Gold Medallist', 'Mixed Youth Gold Medallist', or 'Women's Gold Medallist'.

1.22. NATIONAL CHAMPION

1.22.1. 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, men's, women's, mixed, or age-dependent contests. In such cases, the champions will be differentiated from their counterparts by a suitable preceding qualifier to their rank e.g. 'Senior Mixed Champion', 'Youth Women's Champion', 'Mixed Champion', 'Women's Champion', 'Men's Champion' or 'Open Champion'.

1.23. APPROVED JUDGING SESSION

1.23.1. A session approved by BHA, 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 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. Any Video Recording presentation shall be in accordance with BHA Standing Order 7 - Rules for Video Assessments of Quartets.

1.24. QUALIFICATION

1.24.1. 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.

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

1.24.3. 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.

1.24.4. Gender identity cannot be changed between Regional qualification and National contest if it would change the gender division of the contest that a quartet or chorus was qualified to enter.

- 1.24.5. 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.
- 1.24.6. Other arrangements (e.g. an out of region contest entry or a special entry without qualification) may be approved by BHA 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 BHA 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 or festival program, every competing singer and chorus musical director must be a registered delegate to that convention or festival.
- 3.1.2. Because of the requirement that individual qualification to a National Contest will be determined by BHA, 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.
 - 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 enter the Contest Entry Procedure indicating which National Contests they wish to enter. This includes gender divisions and sub-categories (e.g. Senior, Youth, Novice).
 - 3.1.2.3. Immediately after the Closing Date stated in the Contest Entry Procedure for the National Contests, a list of performers that have received an invitation as described above and have submitted a Contest Entry shall be provided to BHA. That list 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 Regional and 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. Quartets are encouraged to keep their registration up to date with BHA on a yearly basis.

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

3.2.4. 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.

3.2.5. No quartet competing in a BHA National contest may contain more than two members of a National Champion quartet (as defined in clause 1.22.1).

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 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. Choruses are encouraged to keep their registration up to date with BHA on a yearly basis.

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.

3.3.5. 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 procedure will be made known to competitors by 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. Late entries may be considered by BHA, but only in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.3. A contestant entering a Men's, Women's, Mixed, Senior, Youth, Novice or Invitational Quartet contest or a Men's, Women's, Mixed, Senior, Youth or Invitational Chorus contest must declare the contests to be entered in the contest entry procedure, and declare themselves eligible for the contests so entered.
- 4.4. All quartets qualifying under clause 7.3.2.1 will be automatically entered in the Open contest.

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 BHA.
- 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 BHA.

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 gender or age restrictions on entry. The contestants are ranked according to the total of their scores allocated by the judges during the contest.

7.1.2. MEN'S QUARTET CONTEST

- 7.1.2.1. A Men's Quartet Contest may be entered by Men's quartets only.

7.1.3. WOMEN'S QUARTET CONTEST

- 7.1.3.1. A Women's Quartet Contest may be entered by Women's 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. SENIOR QUARTET CONTEST

- 7.1.5.1. A Senior Quartet Contest may be entered by Senior quartets only.

7.1.6. YOUTH QUARTET CONTEST

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

7.1.7. NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST

7.1.7.1. A Novice Quartet Contest may be entered by Novice quartets only.

7.1.8. INVITATIONAL QUARTET EVENT

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

7.1.9. MEN'S CHORUS CONTEST

7.1.9.1. A Men's Chorus Contest may be entered by Men's Choruses only.

7.1.10. WOMEN'S CHORUS CONTEST

7.1.10.1. A Women's Chorus Contest may be entered by Women's Choruses only.

7.1.11. MIXED CHORUS CONTEST

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

7.1.12. SENIOR CHORUS AWARD

7.1.12.1. The highest scoring Senior Chorus in each gender division will win the Senior Chorus Award in that gender division.

7.1.13. YOUTH CHORUS AWARD

7.1.13.1. The highest scoring Youth Chorus in each gender division will win the Youth Chorus Award in that gender division.

7.1.14. INVITATIONAL CHORUS PERFORMANCE

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

7.1.15. MOST IMPROVED QUARTET AWARD

The Most Improved Quartet is the quartet in each gender division 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 and no member changes must have occurred between contests. To be awarded, no fewer than four quartets must be entered in the division.

7.1.16. NOVICE QUARTET AWARD

7.1.16.1. The highest scoring Novice quartet will win the Novice Quartet Award.

7.1.17. SMALL CHORUS AWARD

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

7.1.18. MEDIUM CHORUS AWARD

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

7.1.19. LARGE CHORUS AWARD

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

7.1.20. MOST IMPROVED CHORUS AWARD

7.1.20.1. The Most Improved Chorus is the chorus in each gender division 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. To be awarded, no fewer than four choruses must be entered in the division.

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.

7.2.6. A matrix of the BHA Contest Structure and Awards is shown below.

Quartet Medals and Awards*			
	Men's	Women's	Mixed
Gender Division	1st, 2nd & 3rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals
Senior	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals
Youth	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd medals
Most Improved	Award	Award	Award
Novice	Award	Award	Award
Open	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th medals		
School	Award		

Chorus Medals and Awards*			
	Men's	Women's	Mixed
Gender Division	1st, 2nd & 3rd medals	1st, 2nd & 3rd medals	1st, 2nd & 3rd medals
Senior	Award	Award	Award
Youth	Award	Award	Award
Most Improved	Award	Award	Award
Open	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th medals		
Size	Awards for Small, Medium and Large		
School	Award		

* Medals awarded in accordance with this clause 7.2.

7.3. QUARTET CONTESTS

7.3.1. Quartets meeting the eligibility requirements may enter any contest round for which they have qualified. All competing quartets will perform two songs in each contest entered. Where contests or contest rounds 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 rounds.

7.3.2. The National Open Quartet Contest will be conducted in two rounds:

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

7.3.2.1. Qualification to the National Open Contest Semi-final Round will be determined by BHA, based upon scores obtained at an Approved Judging Session — see Clause 1.24 QUALIFICATION — with a minimum score of 60% or other proportion as determined by the BHA National Council. A maximum of up to 45 quartets will qualify but this number may be varied by BHA depending on the number of quartets qualifying under clause 7.3.3.1.

7.3.2.2. Qualification to a National Open Final Round will be obtained by the quartets ranked 1 to 12 by score (including ties) in the associated National Open Semi-final Round. The songs sung by a quartet in a National Open Semi-final Round shall not be sung by it in the associated National Open Final Round.

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 Rounds.

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.

7.3.2.5. In a National Open Quartet Contest, should quartets contravene clause 3.2.5 but be otherwise eligible to have competed in their respective gender divisions, then the highest scoring said quartet will be placed in the Open Quartet Contest, and the other quartet/s shall be deemed ineligible in the Open Quartet contest only.

7.3.3. The National Senior and Youth Quartet contests will be conducted in one round, which may be independent of, or in conjunction with, the National Open Semi-final Round.

7.3.3.1. Qualification to a National Senior or Youth Quartet Contest will be determined by BHA, based upon scores obtained at an Approved Judging Session — see Clause 1.24 QUALIFICATION — with a minimum score of 55% or other proportion as determined by the BHA National Council.

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 qualified in 2022, then nominated for 2023), if they meet the BHS Target Score. Contact BHA for more information.

7.3.5. Any 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 BHA.

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 round.

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.

7.4.2.2. In a National Open Chorus Contest, should choruses contravene clause 3.3.3 but be otherwise eligible to have competed in their respective gender divisions, then the highest scoring said chorus will be placed in the Open Chorus Contest, and the other chorus/es shall be deemed ineligible in the Open Chorus contest only.

7.4.3. National Chorus Most Improved and Size Division (Small, Medium and Large) awards will be determined from scores attained in the National Open Chorus Contest.

7.4.4. 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 qualified in 2022, then nominated for 2024). Contact BHA for more information.

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 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 a 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 the 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.

13.3. Chorus set up time shall not exceed 5 minutes and chorus clean up time shall not exceed 2 minutes. A penalty of 5 points per judge per minute may be applied at the discretion of the Contest Administrator and/or Chair of the Judging Panel.

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 joint responsibility of the Contest Administrator and the BHA Contest & Judging representative.

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, BHA 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 BHA 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, BHA 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: BHA has the right to amend any Standing Order or clause thereof if emerging circumstances dictate. In this event Club Secretaries and all registered competitors will be immediately notified of any such variation.