

Standing Order 6
CONTEST RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 AAMBS/BHA

- 1.1.1. The abbreviation AAMBS shall mean *The 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.

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. SMALL CHORUS

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

1.9. MEDIUM CHORUS

- 1.9.1. A Medium Chorus is a male chorus that consists of more than 16 performers and 30 performers or less, excluding the Music Director.

1.10. LARGE CHORUS

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

1.11. MIXED CHORUS

- 1.11.1. A Mixed Chorus comprises no more than 60% male or 60% female members, excluding the Music Director.

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- 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.

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Champion quartet that is barred from that contest under Clause 3.1.8.

3.2. CHORUSES

- 3.2.1. All members of competing 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.
- 3.2.2. All competing choruses must be registered with BHA as a male or mixed chorus at least 7 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.
- 3.2.3. A competing chorus may comprise singers competing with more than one chorus, but the number of singers two choruses share shall not exceed 25% of the smaller chorus's membership.
- 3.2.4. If directed on stage, a competing chorus must be so directed by a member of BHA except where invited under Clause 3.2.1. Any chorus may be directed by a male or female member of BHA.
- 3.2.5. The National Champion Open chorus may not compete in a BHA 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).
- 3.2.6. 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.

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:

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

7.2.2. In any BHA 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 will be presented.

7.2.3. 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. 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 50% 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 (i n c l u d i n g t i e s) 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 (green ribbon) and 5th (white ribbon) 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 50% or other proportion as determined by the BHA National Council.

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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

- 12.1.1. 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.
- 12.1.2. 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.
- 12.1.3. Contestants may not use their own electronic amplification. Violation of this rule may result in forfeiture by the Presentation 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 will be penalised by the judges.
- 13.1.2. The Presentation 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 presentation 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.

