

***Standing Order 7***  
**RULES FOR VIDEO ASSESSMENTS OF QUARTETS**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1. The abbreviation BHA shall mean *Barbershop Harmony Australia*.
- 1.2.1 The terms “Video”, “Video Recording” and “Video Assessment” mean and include the recording, and the authorised assessment, in accordance with the provisions following, of performances proposed for entry in a contest or for qualification to a contest, made by any means of Audio-Visual record, whether made by Video Tape, DVD Disc or other recognised manner of technological development.

**2. GENERAL**

- 2.1. These Rules apply to contests conducted for or on behalf of 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 BHA are observed in principle.
- 2.2. Video Assessment is specifically excluded from consideration as a part of National quartet contests or of any BHA chorus contests.
- 2.3. Standing Order 6 – Contest Rules, Clause 1.14 – QUALIFICATION, controls the use of video recordings for the purpose of Qualification to a National contest.
- 2.4. If assessment by video recording is to be allowed for a particular contest, a statement to that effect must be included in the Contest Rules.
- 2.5. The BHA Council may issue special Rules to cover specific contests. Such special rules may qualify or override provisions of these Rules.
- 2.6. Contestants allowed to use video assessment must submit a formal entry form and the contest registration fee, together with a videotape which has been prepared in accordance with the conditions described below. Unless selecting to appear 'For Evaluation Only', they shall be considered full entrants to the contest, shall be bound by the Contest Rules applying to the Contest, and be eligible for the award of medals according to the scores they attain.
- 2.7 Assessments by video recording for the purpose of contest or evaluation shall be carried out by the contest judges in one session, using one set of video and sound equipment, prior to the commencement of the live contest.
- 2.8 Where assessment by video recording is for the purpose of contest, the video assessment scores shall be released simultaneously with the live assessment scores for the contest entered.
- 2.9 If no contest suitable for the inclusion of assessment by video is to be held, assessment of a video recording submitted for the purpose of qualification shall be carried out by a judging panel nominated by the BHA Council.
- 2.10 To ensure complete transparency and equality in both the consideration and the assessment of entries by video recording, any such entry shall be screened openly in the presence of the presiding Judges, other performers and the audience in attendance at the Contest in question.
- 2.11 Scores of contestants assessed by video shall be released simultaneously with the scores of all other contestants.

### **3. APPLICABILITY**

#### **3.1 TOWARDS QUALIFICATION**

- 3.1.1 Video Assessment may be used for the purpose of obtaining qualification to a contest where the BHA Council has authorised such use, and provided that individual approval has been obtained from the Contest Administrator for that contest.

#### **3.2 FOR ENTRY INTO A CONTEST**

- 3.2.1 A contestant may submit a Video Recording in lieu of live performance when competing in a contest, where the BHA body controlling the contest has approved such use, and provided that individual approval has been obtained from the Contest Administrator for that contest.

## **4 APPROVALS**

### **4.1 COUNCIL AUTHORISATION**

- 4.1.1 This Standing Order provides BHA Council Authorisation of the use of Video Recordings for Qualification to National Contests for Quartets where qualification to compete in such a contest is a requirement of entry into the contest. Use of a Video Recording in a BHA National contest in lieu of live performance is specifically *not* approved by this Standing Order.

- 4.1.2 The BHA Council may vary the above Authorisation by publishing notification of such variation. Such notification will normally be made prior to the opening date for entries to the contest affected.

### **4.2 CONTROLLING BODY APPROVAL**

- 4.2.1 BHA Regional Boards may, in exceptional circumstances only, approve the use of Video Recordings in lieu of live performance when competing in a contest controlled by such a Board. Approval or non-approval by a Board shall be promulgated as part of the Notification of Contest.

### **4.3 CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL**

- 4.3.1 The final decision on acceptance of a Video Recording in lieu of a live performance for the purpose of Qualification or Contest lies with the Contest Administrator for the subject contest. Such approval must be sought by the contestant, via a written submission received by the Contest Administrator with the contestant's Entry Form for the contest or Qualification session.
- 4.3.2 The Contest Administrator will grant approval of the use of a Video Recording in extenuating circumstances only. Typically, an accident, sudden illness or family trauma preventing the presence of one or more members of a quartet might be considered sufficient reason for approval.

## **5. PROCEDURE**

### **5.1 FOR QUALIFICATION**

- 5.1.1 The requirement for and process of Qualification to a Contest shall be determined by the BHA body controlling the contest for which qualification is required. For BHA National Contests, the requirement for qualification may be found in Standing Order 6 – Contest Rules. A Regional Board controlling a Regional Contest shall, if so directed by BHA Council, accept and make provision for Video Recordings to be judged for the purposes of Qualification to a National Contest.
- 5.1.2 Quartets submitting a Video Recording in lieu of live performance for the purpose of qualification only shall submit a formal contest entry form indicating that judging For Evaluation Only is requested, and pay any registration fee prescribed.

### **5.2 IN CONTEST**

- 5.2.1 A Regional Board may or may not accept approved Video Entries in lieu of live performance for entry into a Regional Contest. A statement reflecting that decision should be made in the Notice of Contest, and if such a statement is not so made, video entries shall be accepted for the purpose of contest or for evaluation only as requested by the contestant.
- 5.2.2 Contestants submitting a Video Recording in lieu of live performance in a contest for which such entries have been approved must submit a formal entry form and pay the contest registration fee, together with a video recording prepared in accordance with the conditions described below. They shall be considered full entrants to the contest, shall be bound by the Contest Rules applying to the contest, and shall be eligible for the award of medals and prizes according to the scores they attain.

### **5.3 ASSESSMENT**

- 5.3.1 Assessment by video recording for the purpose of contest shall be carried out by the contest judges in one session, using one set of video and sound equipment, immediately prior to the commencement of the live performances in the contest. The video assessment scores shall be released simultaneously with the live assessment scores for the contest entered.
- 5.3.2 Assessment by video recording for the purpose of qualification may be carried out in conjunction with a Regional Contest for which the Regional Board has rejected video entries into the contest itself. In this situation, the video assessments shall be made by the contest judges in one session that includes the screening of video recordings only, using one set of video and sound equipment.

## **6. REQUIREMENTS**

### **6.1 CAMERA and MICROPHONE**

6.1.1 The video recording shall effect a simultaneous Audio and Visual performance by the contestant quartet so appearing, duly certified as such by the controlling authority. (See Cl. 5.4 below.)

### **6.2 INTRODUCTION**

6.2.1 At the beginning of the recording, a non-competing person shall introduce the contestant, clearly stating the contest for which the recording will be submitted. The following words are an example of the required form:

“This contestant for the 2017 BHA Sunshine Region Open Quartet contest is from Ipswich. Please welcome Tim, Eric, Fred and John from The Miner Chords”.

6.2.2 The person introducing the quartet should not appear in the video.

### **6.3 FILMING**

6.3.1 Video recording shall commence before the introduction, and continue unbroken until the contestant has left the stage or the curtain has fully closed.

6.3.2 Two songs should be performed without any break in the video recording.

6.3.3 The recording shall start with a long shot showing the complete stage, to record the contestant's entrance or the curtain opening, and then zoom in so as to frame the entire quartet.

6.3.4 The heads and feet of all members of the contesting group must remain in the frame throughout the entire performance. Close ups of individual faces or members shall not be used.

6.3.5 If the contest is to be conducted in more than one stage (e.g. a semi-final and final), a video recording for each stage shall be submitted. The introduction to each performance shall include a clear statement as to the stage of the contest for which the recording is made.

6.3.6 The recording shall be conducted in front of an audience of at least ten persons, and shall be of the first performance by the contestant in front of that audience, on the day of the recording.

### **6.4 CONTROL**

6.4.1 The recording session shall be under the control of the Contest Administrator, or of a person agreed to by the Contest Administrator. An office-bearer of a BHA club or region would be an ideal choice.

6.4.2 The submitted video recording shall be accompanied by a statement signed by the person in control of the recording session, stating the conditions under which the recording was made, and any deviations from these rules and why did they occur.

6.4.3 Any session in which video recordings are viewed for the purpose of qualification or contest shall be controlled by a qualified Contest Administrator, and shall be open to viewing by other performers and a general audience.

### **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.*