

# CONTEST RULES



**Published by the  
Society Contest and Judging Committee**

**Barbershop Harmony Society**

**110 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203-3704**

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Society Board of Directors, CEO, and SCJC through 25 June 2020.

# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## Contest Rules

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# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## Contest Rules

Updated 6/25/2020

### FOREWORD

These rules apply to all official quartet and chorus contests at the division, district and international levels in the Society.

In matters not specifically covered by these rules, the districts may exercise reasonable latitude and prerogative provided that the established ethics and policies of the Society are closely observed.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Ensemble Classifications

##### ❖ Gender Identity

Ensembles are classified by the individual members' self-identification in the Society Member Center database.<sup>1</sup>

##### ❖ Quartet

- *Men's*: consists only of members who identify themselves as male.
- *Women's*: consists only of members who identify themselves as female.
- *Mixed Harmony*: consists of members who identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.

##### ❖ Chorus

- *Men's*: all singers identify themselves as male. The gender identity of the director is not relevant.
- *Women's*: all singers identify themselves as female. The gender identity of the director is not relevant.
- *Mixed Harmony*: any chorus in which all singers identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals describe for themselves how they gender identify, and that description is stored as part of the member record. The Barbershop Harmony Society strives to treat all individuals equitably and with a presumption of good character and integrity in accurately maintaining their own member records.

# BHS Contest Rules

## ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY <sup>2</sup>

### A. Quartets

#### 1. Membership and Quartet Registration Requirements

- a. *Society and Participation Membership*: All members of Society competing quartets must be members of the Society and one or more Society districts.<sup>3</sup> A member of the Society is defined as one whose Society dues and any other dues/fees assigned as a part of Society Participation Membership are fully paid and who is not under suspension by a chapter or the Society Board of Directors.
- b. *District*: At least one member of a Society quartet must be a member of a chapter in the district in which the quartet elects to compete (Art.I.A.3). This includes the district's Frank H Thorne chapter.
- c. *Quartet Registration*: To be eligible for competition, a Society quartet must be registered with the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) and such registration must include the same personnel that enter the contest. The registration must be either the standard or premium quartet package; i.e., the basic package is not eligible.
- d. *Global Alliance quartets*: Membership eligibility of a competing quartet from a global alliance organization shall be in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the organization and the Society.

#### 2. Seniors Quartet

Each member of a quartet competing in the international seniors quartet contest or international preliminary seniors quartet contest must be a male age 55 or older and the sum of the accumulated ages of the quartet must equal or exceed 240 years. These requirements must be met on the basis of birthdays reached on or before the day of the international seniors contest held at the midwinter convention.

#### 3. Selection of Home District

In the event that members of a quartet collectively hold memberships in more than one district, the quartet must notify the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) on its initial registration of the district it chooses to represent and in which it will compete. Should it wish to change home district, the quartet must notify the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) prior to September 1 each year of the district it chooses to represent and in which it will compete. Such selection will be binding for a full year (September-August), and the quartet may not compete in any contest in any other district during that year except as provided below.

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<sup>2</sup> Any requests for exception to any of the following rules on eligibility must be made to the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair.

<sup>3</sup> Participation membership in Society and any district, without a specific chapter subscription, is equivalent to Frank H Thorne chapter requirement.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 4. Out-of-District Competition

- a. *Request:* Under normal circumstances a quartet is expected to compete in its selected home district. However, a quartet may request to compete in a district other than their home district.
- b. *Action:*
  - (1) Such requests by a quartet to compete in a district other than their home district are subject to approval by the district representative for contest and judging of the requested contest district. Districts are not required to allow every quartet guaranteed "open" access to their preliminary quartet contest if they feel they need to control the size.
  - (2) As a matter of good practice and courtesy a quartet requesting approval to compete out-of-district should advise its home district representative for contest and judging of the request.
- c. *Deadline:* Requests must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the official entry deadline of the out-of-district contest for which entry is desired.

### 5. Competing in Multiple Quartets <sup>4</sup>

In international and international preliminary contests a member may compete with no more than one quartet in an ensemble classification, regardless of the number of quartets or districts to which the member belongs. If a member is competing in two quartets in different ensemble classifications, each quartet in which they are competing must be comprised of no more than two of the same members. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be made to the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair.

A member may compete in multiple quartets in any division or district contest, but each quartet must be comprised of no more than two of the same members.

### 6. Championship Quartets

- a. *Not Eligible to Compete:* Except in division contests, championship quartets of prior years, regardless of ensemble classification or district, will not be eligible to compete again for an international or district championship.
- b. *Forming A New Quartet:* This rule will not be construed to prohibit the organization and entry of a new quartet of not more than two members of the same championship quartet, provided entry is made under a different name.

### 7. Convention Registration

Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

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<sup>4</sup> A quartet is permitted to compete in two preliminary contests. A second attempt automatically replaces the first attempt score in terms of possible wild card qualification. The first attempt in a home district preliminary contest will be used for district representative selection. However, where applicable, a second attempt in a home district preliminary contest will be used for district representative selection and replace the first home district attempt.

## BHS Contest Rules

### B. Choruses

#### 1. Membership Requirements

- a. *Society and Chapter*: All members of competing Society choruses, including director, must be members of the Society and of each chapter they choose to represent in competition. If not permitted to be a chapter member by that chapter's bylaws (single gender), a director must be a Society member and a member of the district in which the chorus is competing. Chapters represented in Society chorus contests must be in good standing with the Society and their districts.
- b. *Global Alliance Choruses*: Membership eligibility of a competing chorus from a global alliance organization shall be in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the organization and the Society.

#### 2. Minimum Size

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more participants on stage, including the director regardless of gender.

#### 3. Competing in Multiple Choruses

A member may participate, either as director or singer, with more than one chorus in any contest.

#### 4. Distinctly Separate Choruses

While individual members are permitted to compete in two or more choruses, it is policy that only distinctly separate ensembles are allowed to compete for the same award or compete in the same international contest cycle. Choruses may not be comprised of more than 75% of the same members on stage as another chorus competing for the same contest award or in the same preliminary cycle.<sup>5</sup> In the case where both choruses are of the same ensemble classification, the percentage threshold is calculated against the smaller chorus. Otherwise, the percentage threshold applies to the mixed harmony chorus. (See Position Paper XI. Distinctly Separate Chorus in Chapter 9 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for details).

#### 5. Out-of-District Competition

- a. *Request*: Under normal circumstances a chorus is expected to compete in its home district. However, a chorus may request to compete in a district other than their home district.
- b. *Action*:
  - (1) Such requests to compete in a district other than their home district are subject to approval by the district representative for contest and judging of the requested contest district. Districts are not required to allow every chorus a guaranteed "open" access to their prelim event if they feel they need to control the size.

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<sup>5</sup> The intent of this rule is fairness; so as an example, a men's chorus cannot simply add a few females voices to become a mixed chorus in the same preliminary chorus cycle, not just the same session.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

(2) As a matter of good practice and courtesy a chorus requesting approval to compete out-of-district should advise its home district representative for contest and judging of the request.

*c. Deadline:* Requests must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the official entry deadline of the out-of-district contest for which entry is desired.

### **6. Layout After Championship**

International champion choruses, regardless of ensemble classification, are not eligible to compete for the international championships to be awarded for the two contest cycles (normally two years) following the year in which the chorus won the international championship.

### **7. Convention Registration**

Each and every member of a competing chorus, including the director, shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

## **C. Violations**

### **1. Reporting Violation**

Suspected violations of Article I shall be reported to the district representative for contest and judging (contests other than international contests) or to the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, (international contests) within 10 days after discovery of the suspected violation and, in any event, no later than 30 days after the contest conclusion. All such reports should include all available documentation in order to assist with the investigation and decision.

### **2. Format**

All notices and rulings with respect to Article I violations must be in writing (which may include electronic transmissions) and shall be deemed to have been given

- (1) upon personal delivery, or
- (2) two business days after being mailed, or
- (3) if given by electronic transmission, when received and acknowledged.

The party receiving an electronic notice or ruling shall immediately acknowledge receipt.

### **3. Effect of Violation**

Quartets and choruses found in violation of Article I.A or Article I.B, respectively, or related Article II.E or Article XI.A.1, are ineligible and disqualified. They will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary (See Article VI, below.)

## **D. Additional Eligibility Restrictions**

As a general rule districts may not impose any additional eligibility requirement for contest entry; e.g., residency or length of membership. Any request for exception to this policy should be submitted to the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair.

## BHS Contest Rules

### ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES <sup>6</sup>

#### A. Division Contests

Contest entry procedures for division contests are specified by district policy.

#### B. District Contests and International Preliminary Contests

##### 1. Contest Entry

A means of contest entry will be made available to each eligible contestant within the district by the district official(s) specified by the district at least 30 days prior to the contest entry deadline. The district representative for contest and judging is responsible for notifying each eligible contestant of the timing and method of entry.

##### 2. Deadline

Completed entries for the contest must be received by the district representative for contest and judging by a date specified by district policy; provided however, that for good cause shown, the district representative for contest and judging, with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, may accept late entries which are received not later than 7 days prior to the contest date.

#### C. International Quartet Contests

##### 1. Contestant Qualification

- a. *Attainment of Target Score (Automatic Qualification)*: Regardless of ensemble classification, all Society quartets adjudicated by at least a double-panel component of certified Society judges that meet or exceed the target score (Article V.D.3) shall qualify for the international contest.
- b. *Second Attempt at Automatic Qualification*: If they choose, competitors will be allowed a second attempt to achieve the target score by competing in a second preliminary event. A second attempt automatically replaces the first attempt score except as noted for district representative selection in Art.II.C.1.c below.
- c. *District Representative*: In the event that no quartet from a district has attained the target score at the end of the final preliminary quartet contest in May, the district's highest scoring quartet that competed in its home district international preliminary quartet contest and met the minimum score (below) shall qualify to represent that district in the international quartet contest.<sup>7 8</sup>
- d. *Scoring Pool*: In the event that fewer than the minimum number of Society quartets are qualified by the above methods (target score or district representative), the remaining quartets chosen to fill out the desired field of Society quartets will be selected by rank

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<sup>6</sup> Contest entry normally is done online via [www.Barberscore.com](http://www.Barberscore.com) or alternative online method.

<sup>7</sup> The first attempt in a home district preliminary contest normally will be used for district representative selection. However, where applicable when a district conducts two preliminary contests, a second attempt in a home district preliminary contest will replace the first home district attempt.

<sup>8</sup> If no quartet at a home district preliminary contest attains the target score, it will not be possible to announce a district representative until all preliminary contests are completed.

## BHS Contest Rules

from a pool of all those quartets competing in that year's international preliminary quartet contests. [NOTE: Current minimum number of Society quartets is 45. After global alliance quartet invitations are determined, the total number of all participating quartets will be at least 50.]

- e. *Minimum Score*: All Society quartets must have earned a minimum score, which is adopted by the executive director after considering the score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The minimum score adopted by the executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current minimum score is average of 76.]
- f. *Global Alliance Quartet Invitations*: In accordance with its agreement between itself and the Society, a global alliance organization is eligible to nominate a quartet from its own or another global alliance contest as its representative to the International contest. This quartet may be invited by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors. All other invitations will be at the discretion of the Society executive director based on recommendations by the Society Contest and Judging Committee with the same minimum score required of Society quartets.
- g. *Change of Ensemble Classification*: Once qualified for an international quartet contest a quartet may not change its ensemble classification and remain qualified.

### 2. Qualifying Quartet Replacement

- a. *Replacement of Quartet*: If, prior to the international contest, a quartet that qualified by attainment of the target score or by scoring pool as defined above becomes ineligible or unavailable, that quartet will not be replaced, except where the loss of that quartet brings the total of Society quartets qualifying for the contest below 45.
- b. *Replacement of District Representative*: If prior to the international contest a quartet becomes either ineligible or otherwise unavailable to compete and, if as a result, that district would not be represented in the international contest, then the next highest ranking quartet that is available from the same district and that competed in its home district preliminary quartet contest will replace the quartet that has become ineligible or unavailable, provided that said next highest ranking quartet has earned the minimum score as defined in Article II.C.1.e.

### 3. Contest Entry and Deadline

Contest entry (normally online) for the contest must be received by the Society Headquarters no later than 15 June prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, late entries may be accepted.



## BHS Contest Rules

### D. International Seniors Quartet Contests

#### 1. Contest Qualification

- a. *District Representative:* The highest scoring declared seniors quartet from each district competing in its home district's preliminary seniors quartet contest shall be declared the district's representative.<sup>9</sup>
- b. *Scoring Pool:* The remaining quartets to fill out the field of Society quartets, up to a number determined by the executive director, will be selected by rank from a pool of all those quartets competing in that year's international preliminary seniors quartet contests. [NOTE: Current desired number of Society quartets is 25.] In the event that more than one quartet is ranked at the desired number by score, each quartet achieving that ranking shall qualify for the international seniors contest.
- c. *Global Alliance Seniors Quartets:* In addition to the Society quartets, seniors quartets from alliance organizations may be invited by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors.
- d. *Minimum Score:* In order to be eligible to compete in the international seniors quartet contest, all quartets must have earned a minimum score which is adopted by the executive director after considering the score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The minimum score adopted by the executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current minimum score is average of 61.]
- e. *Other Seniors Quartet Contests:* Districts are free to stage other seniors quartet contests for local awards and may expand these beyond men's classification.

#### 2. Notification and Indication of Intent

All district and global alliance representatives and selected at-large quartets will be notified in early November preceding the contest date. Each quartet must advise the Society Headquarters of its intention to compete by November 15. Failure of any quartet to do so, by the date specified, shall constitute withdrawal of the quartet's invitation.

#### 3. Qualifying Quartet Replacement

- a. *District Representative:* If a district representative withdraws or otherwise becomes unavailable, and, as a result, that district would not be represented in the international seniors quartet contest, then the next highest ranking quartet that is available from the same district will replace the quartet that has withdrawn or become unavailable, provided that said next highest ranking quartet has earned the minimum score as defined in Article II.D.1.d.
- b. *Scoring Pool:* In the event any at-large quartets withdraw or otherwise become unavailable prior to the first working day of January, replacements shall be added from the scoring pool in order to not fall below a field of 25 Society quartets.

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<sup>9</sup> Per Art.I.A.2 seniors quartet members must be male.

## BHS Contest Rules

- c. *Cut-Off Date*: No replacements will be made after the first working day in January, whether or not a district would be left unrepresented and regardless of the number of remaining entries.

### 4. Contest Entry and Deadline

Contest entry (normally online) for the contest must be received by the Society Headquarters no later than 15 December prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, late entries may be accepted.

## E. Personnel Change in Quartets

### 1. Change During Contest Not Permitted

No quartet member may be replaced during a contest. Replacement of one or more quartet members who began the first song of the contest will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified. (See Article I for membership eligibility/violations.)

### 2. Personnel Change in Qualifying Quartets

a. *International Quartet and Seniors Quartet Contests*

After qualifying for an international contest at an international preliminary quartet contest or an international preliminary seniors quartet contest, a quartet may replace up to one member and still be eligible to compete at the international contest; i.e., at least three members who sang in the qualifying contest must sing in the corresponding international contest for that quartet to remain eligible to compete. As noted in Art.II.C.1.f, this replacement may not result in a change of ensemble classification; e.g. replacing a singer in a men's quartet to become a mixed quartet or replacing the only female in a mixed quartet to become a men's quartet.

b. *District and Division Contests*

Policy on replacement of any quartet personnel between qualification at a division contest and a district contest is specified by each district.

## F. International Chorus Contests

### 1. Contest Qualification

a. *District Representative*: Regardless of ensemble classification the highest scoring chorus from each district competing in its home district's preliminary chorus contest shall be declared the district's representative and shall qualify to represent that district in the international chorus contest.

b. *Attainment of Target Score (Automatic Qualification)*: In addition, all Society choruses that meet or exceed a target score shall qualify for the international contest.<sup>10 11</sup> The target score is adopted by the executive director prior to the first qualifying preliminary contest for the international contest in question, after considering the target score

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<sup>10</sup> A Society chapter may be represented by a chorus in any or all of the chorus classifications.

<sup>11</sup> Although a rare occurrence, a chorus will be allowed a second attempt to achieve a qualifying score, but this second prelims score will replace the prior score for qualification purposes.

## BHS Contest Rules

recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The target score adopted by the executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current target score is average of 81.]

- c. *Scoring Pool*: In the event that fewer than this minimum number of Society choruses are qualified by the above methods (district representative or target score), the remaining choruses to fill out the desired field of Society choruses will be selected by rank from a pool of all those choruses competing in that year's international preliminary chorus contests. [NOTE: Current minimum number of Society choruses is 27.]
- d. *Scoring Pool Ties*: If there is a tie between two or more choruses for the last scoring pool qualifier, the Society executive director will review the schedule to determine if all the tied choruses can be accommodated in the draw. If not, then the tie situation will be resolved using the standard tie break formula; i.e., a tie for first place 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 be broken by random draw and the chorus name drawn will be awarded the last qualification.
- e. *Minimum Score*: In order to be eligible to compete in the international chorus contest, all Society choruses, including district representatives, must have earned a minimum score, which is adopted by the executive director after considering the score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The minimum score adopted by the executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current minimum score is an average of 74.]
- f. *Global Alliance Choruses*: In addition to the Society choruses and in accordance with any agreement between a global alliance organization and the Society, choruses from global alliance organizations may be invited by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors.
- g. *Change of Ensemble Classification*: Once qualified for an international chorus contest a chorus may not change its ensemble classification and remain qualified.

## 2. Replacement

- a. *District Representative*: If a qualifying chorus withdraws or otherwise becomes unavailable and, as a result, that district would not be represented in the international chorus contest, then the next highest ranking chorus that is available from the same district will be invited to replace the qualifying chorus, provided it earned the minimum score.
- b. *Other Qualified Chorus*: If a qualifying chorus is not a district representative withdraws from the international chorus contest or otherwise becomes unavailable, the next highest scoring eligible chorus in the Society not yet qualified will be invited to replace the withdrawn chorus, provided that said next highest scoring chorus has earned the minimum score as defined in Article II.F.1.e. If there is a tie for the next highest scoring eligible chorus position, it will be resolved per the process of Article II.F.1.d above.
- c. *Replacement OOA*: If the order of appearance has been determined, the replacement chorus will fill the position of the withdrawn chorus in the contest order of appearance.

## BHS Contest Rules

- d. *Acceptance and Replacement Cut-off Date:* Invited replacement choruses will have seven days to respond to the invitation. The process for replacing withdrawals will end by April 1.

### 3. Contest Entry and Deadline

Contest entry (normally online) for the contest must be received by the Society Headquarters no later than 15 June prior to the contest; provided however, that for good cause shown and with the concurrence of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, late entries may be accepted.

### 4. Roster and Certification Submission

- a. *Roster Submission:* Each chorus competing in the international chorus contest must submit a roster to the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) by June 15th indicating all members who will be participating on stage with that chorus, including the director. The roster must include the full name of each member who will be competing, their Society member number, and an indication that the member has a convention registration.
- b. *Certification Statement:* The roster must also include the following statement and be signed by the chapter president and chapter secretary:  
“We hereby certify that this roster is accurate and that all names submitted are Society, district, and chapter members in good standing, that each member has, or will have, a convention registration, and that we have complied with all eligibility requirements outlined in Article I.B.”
- c. *Validation:* The Society membership department will validate each roster list submitted and notify the chapter that (1) the validated list has been forwarded to the contest administrator for the international chorus contest, or (2) return the list to the chapter with notations reflecting members not in compliance with the rule. If the latter, the chorus has five calendar days to get all members submitted in compliance or remove their noncompliant names from the list.
- d. *Eligibility Confirmation:* The roster list and other documentation may be used by the contest administrators, convention officials, or Society staff to confirm eligibility at the contest site.
- e. *Effect of Noncompliance:* Failure to comply with this requirement will result in declaring the chorus ineligible as specified in Article I.

## G. Copyright Clearance

### 1. Observance of Copyright Laws

All contestants are required to observe the copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements.

### 2. Contest Songs and Entry Certification

Consistent with this Society policy, as part of their contest entry contestants are required to include any songs to be performed in their repertory list and to certify copyright compliance with regard to those songs. Further information on cleared music can be found

## **BHS Contest Rules**

in the *Contest and Judging Handbook* section PROVIDING PROOF OF COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE FOR COMPETITION (Chapter 15).

### **3. Multiple Song Entry**

If a contestant is not sure which songs they may perform in contest, it can, and should, list all the possibilities with the entry.

### **4. Use of Song Not Listed On Entry**

If it wishes to perform a song not previously listed on the entry, a contestant is required to provide documentation of cleared music to the contest administrator prior to the start of the competition. Any songs performed without being listed on the entry or without documentation being provided to the contest administrator will be investigated by the district representative for contest and judging (at any contest other than international) or by the panel chair (at international contests).

### **5. Effect of Noncompliance**

Noncompliance with this rule by performing a song in contest for which copyright clearance has not been obtained or by failing to provide the required documentation of cleared music at any time upon request are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the Society executive director, including being declared ineligible and disqualified.

## **ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES**

Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories:

### **A. Music**

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. The judge adjudicates the suitability of the material to the barbershop style and the performer's musicianship in bringing the song and arrangement to life. The quality of any barbershop performance depends largely on the accurate execution and artistic delivery of the consonant harmony. The judge adjudicates the performer's sensitivity and demonstrated understanding in handling these musical elements, skillfully developed, delivered, and effectively integrated in support of the musical theme(s). Furthermore, when considering the song and arrangement, the Music judge takes into account musical elements provided by the composer and arranger, such as melody, lyrics, rhythm, embellishments, implied harmony and stylistic progressions.

### **B. Performance**

The Performance judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. The judge responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the performance, but the judge principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. The judge adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Performance judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

## BHS Contest Rules

### C. Singing

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. Artistic singing is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill and appropriate vocal expression, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements creates a fullness and expansion of sound, and when combined with expressive vocal skills will convey a feeling of genuine emotion to support the message of the song.

## ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES

### A. Certification

Judges (scoring judges and contest administrators) are certified by the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, in their respective categories in accordance with their qualifications to judge one of the three scoring categories or to serve as a contest administrator. It is the duty of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, to provide an official register of certified and candidate judges. (See Chapter 12 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for policies and additional information on certification.)

### B. Appointment of International Panels

#### 1. Appointment

The judges for international contests are appointed from the *Official Register of Certified Judges* by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair.

#### 2. International Contest with Double Panel Minimum

A minimum of two judges per scoring category shall be used in the international seniors quartet contest. In addition, the panel shall have at least one contest administrator and one associate contest administrator.

#### 3. International Contests with Quintuple Panel

Five judges per scoring category shall be used in the international quartet and chorus contests. In addition, those international panels shall have one contest administrator and two associate contest administrators.

The Society Contest and Judging Committee chair shall serve as panel chair for international quartet and chorus contests, unless unavailable for any reason and, in that case, the Committee immediate past chair shall serve as panel chair for any session(s) in which the Committee chair is unavailable. The panel chair will be the final authority for any and all decisions outlined in Article XIV (Operation of Contest).

### C. Appointment of Division, District, and International Preliminary Panels

#### 1. Appointment

The contest administrators and scoring judges for division, district, and international preliminary contests are appointed from the *Official Register of Certified Judges* by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair. An experienced candidate

## BHS Contest Rules

scoring judge or contest administrator may be appointed to the panel upon approval of the category specialist.

### 2. Contests with Double Panel Minimum

A minimum of two judges per scoring category shall be assigned in international preliminary contests. In addition, those panels shall have at least one contest administrator.

### 3. District and Division Contests

The number of judges for district and division contests, other than those involving an international preliminary contest, is determined by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair in consideration of the number of contestants and the efficient use of judges' time in conducting evaluations. (See Chapter 14 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for policies on use of judges.)

## D. Appointment from Other Organizations

A judge for division, district, and international preliminary contests may be appointed from a Society global alliance barbershop organization or from Harmony Incorporated. This is the case whether a judge from the *Official Register of Certified Judges* is not available, must be replaced after being appointed or, even though a certified judge may indicate availability for a contest, should time constraints, financial considerations or other mitigating circumstances prevail. All such appointments are subject to approval by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair.

## E. Panel Expense Allowance

An expense allowance for each judge and contest administrator will be determined by using the "Information for Computing Expense Allowance for Official Panel Members" contained in the *Contest and Judging Handbook* (Chapter 19 - Form CJ-21).

## ARTICLE V: CONTEST PROVISIONS AND TYPES

### A. General Provisions for All Contests

#### 1. Sessions

If there are more than 25 contestants, they shall be divided into two or more contest sessions, scheduled as separate events. In unusual circumstances, an exception to this rule in the international quartet and chorus contests may be made by the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair, and an exception in contests other than international may be made by the district representative for contest and judging with the prior approval of the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chair.

#### 2. Repetition of Song

*a. Substantial Part Repeated:* Within all rounds of a specific contest, a contestant may not repeat a song or a substantial part of any song. In the context of these rules, the term song may refer to a single song or a medley in which major portions of two or more songs are used. A parody of a song previously sung would be considered repeating a song.

## BHS Contest Rules

- b. Recommendation by Music Judge(s):* A Music judge shall recommend forfeiture to the contest administrator if a contestant repeats a song or a substantial portion from one of its songs in another song. If there are two or more Music judges, the decision to forfeit must be unanimous.
- c. Recommendation Unanimous:* When the decision to forfeit is unanimous, the contest administrator shall record as zero the contestant's entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s).
- d. Recommendation Not Unanimous:* When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.

### 3. Convention Registrations

All contestants shall hold registrations for the convention at which the contest is held.

### 4. District Discretion on Categories of Contests

Districts are permitted to create categories of division and district contests based on ensemble classification as maintained in Society Headquarters records (men's, women's, and mixed harmony). Districts may also create open contests without regard to group category.

## B. Division Contests and District Chorus Contests

Contestants are judged on two different songs in one appearance or, if dictated by district policy, are judged on four different songs with two songs in each of two appearances.

## C. District Quartet Contests

### 1. Adjudication

Quartets may be judged on four different songs with two songs in each of two appearances or, if dictated by district policy, on two different songs in one appearance.

### 2. Elimination Round and Number in Finals

If quartets are judged on four different songs in two appearances and there are more than ten contestants, the first appearance is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second, or final, appearance to ten or less. Districts may exercise latitude in the number of finalist quartets.

## D. International Preliminary Quartet Contests

### 1. Timing and Supervision

International preliminary quartet contests may be held in each district each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board.<sup>12</sup> Contests will be held between August of the preceding year through the first weekend in May of the year of the

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<sup>12</sup> A district has the option to not hold preliminary contests or to hold multiple contests. Contact the SCJC Chairman to discuss and determine a schedule and course of action.



## **BHS Contest Rules**

international quartet contest for which quartets are qualifying. The international preliminary quartet contest may coincide with the district quartet contest.

### **2. Adjudication**

Quartets are judged on four different songs with two songs in each of two appearances unless there are more than ten contestants, in which case the first appearance is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second, or final, appearance to ten.

### **3. Number of Finalist Quartets**

Districts may exercise latitude in the number of finalist quartets, but the contest administrator will increase the number of quartets competing in the finals if more quartets are within 3 percentage points of achieving the target score, which is the score allowing eligibility for the international contest adopted by the executive director by no later than prior to the first qualifying preliminary contest for the international contest in question, after considering the target score recommended by the Society Contest and Judging Committee. The target score adopted by the executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current target score is average of 78.]

## **E. International Quartet Contests**

### **1. Timing and Supervision**

The annual international quartet contest will be held in conjunction with the Society's annual convention, at a time and place determined by the Society executive director, and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board.

### **2. Contestants**

The contestants will be those Society quartets that have qualified by their scores or placements in the international preliminary quartet contests and those additional quartets from global alliance organizations that have been invited to participate by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors, provided that each quartet earns the minimum score as defined in Article II.C.1.d.

### **3. Quarterfinals Adjudication**

Each contestant is judged on two different songs in a round known as the international quarterfinals.

### **4. Semifinals Adjudication**

The twenty highest scoring quartets plus ties in the quarterfinals, regardless of classification, will compete in the international semifinals. Each contestant will be judged on two more songs.

### **5. Finals Adjudication**

The ten highest scoring quartets plus ties from the semifinals, regardless of classification, will compete in the international finals. Selection of quartets will be by ranking computed from the combined scores obtained in the quarterfinals and semifinals. Every contestant in the finals will be judged on two more songs.

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### 6. Ranking and Awards

After the finals round, ranking of quartets will be computed from the combined scores obtained in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals rounds. The first-place quartet in each ensemble classification will be declared the international quartet champion for that classification (men's, women's and mixed harmony). Up to four additional places may be designated as international medalist quartets with the exact number within each classification determined by the executive director based on number of contestants in each classification and their relative scores. Non-medalist quartets placing in the finals round will be recognized as international finalists. Special recognition shall be given to the highest scoring new quartet. (See detailed criteria specified in Chapter 18 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook*.)

### F. International Preliminary Seniors Quartet Contests

#### 1. Timing and Supervision

International preliminary seniors quartet contests may be held in each district each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board. Each contest will be held during the calendar year preceding the year of the international seniors quartet contest for which the quartets are qualifying.

#### 2. Semifinal Round of Another Contest

The international preliminary seniors quartet contest may be held in conjunction with the semifinal round of the district quartet contest, or the international preliminary quartet contest if different, whether or not a contestant is also entered in the other contest.

#### 3. Adjudication

Each quartet is judged on two different songs in one appearance.

### G. International Seniors Quartet Contests

#### 1. Timing and Supervision

The annual international seniors quartet contest shall be held in conjunction with the Society's annual midwinter convention at a time and place determined by the Society executive director, and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board.

#### 2. Contestants

The contestants will be those Society quartets that have qualified by their scores or placements in the international preliminary seniors quartet contests, and those quartets from global alliance organizations that may be invited to participate by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors.

#### 3. Adjudication

Each quartet is judged on two different songs in one appearance.

## BHS Contest Rules

### 4. Ranking and Awards

Awards shall be presented to the first through fifth place quartets. The first-place quartet shall be declared the international seniors quartet champion. Winners of the second through fifth places will be designated as international seniors quartet medalists. Special recognition shall be given to the competing quartet with the greatest number of cumulative years of age. Special recognition shall be given to the oldest individual participant.

## H. International Preliminary Chorus Contests<sup>13</sup>

### 1. Timing and Supervision

International preliminary chorus contests may be held in each district each year under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board. Each contest will be held during the calendar year preceding the year of the international chorus contest for which the choruses are qualifying. The international preliminary chorus contest may also be the district chorus contest, if dictated by district policy.

### 2. Adjudication

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

## I. International Chorus Contests

### 1. Timing and Supervision

The annual international chorus contests will be held each year in conjunction with the Society's annual convention, at a time and place determined by the Society executive director and under the general supervision of the Society Board of Directors and operational supervision of the Society executive director unless otherwise ordered by that board.

### 2. Contestants

The contestants will be those Society choruses that are qualified by their scores in the international preliminary chorus contests, and those choruses from global alliance organizations that are invited to participate by the Society executive director on behalf the Society Board of Directors.

### 3. Adjudication

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

### 4. Ranking and Awards

The first place chorus in each classification will be declared the international chorus champion for that ensemble classification (men's, women's or mixed harmony). Up to four additional places may be designated as international medalist choruses with the number within each classification determined by the executive director based on number of contestants in each classification and their relative scores.

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<sup>13</sup> A district has the option not to hold preliminary contests. It should contact BHS HQ and SCJC to discuss and determine a plan of action.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS**

#### **A. Official Scoring Summary**

##### **1. Contents**

An official scoring summary will show the district, and division if appropriate, the contest date and location, the scores for each song in each category for each eligible contestant, the total score for each eligible contestant, the names of the songs, and the names of the official panel members.

##### **2. International Quartet Contests**

For international quartet contests an official scoring summary will be published by the contest administrator immediately after the quarterfinals and semifinals, showing all the scores of the eliminated quartets, and after the finals, showing all the scores of the finalist quartets.

##### **3. Contests Other Than International Quartet Contests**

For all contests other than international quartet contests an official scoring summary will be published by the contest administrator immediately following the announcement of winners and/or qualifiers. A scoring summary for eliminated quartets may be published by the contest administrator following the conclusion of a semifinals round.

#### **B. Revised Official Scoring Summary**

Should an administrative or typographical error be found in a published official scoring summary, a revised official scoring summary will be issued within 5 days after discovery of the error and, in any event, no later than 30 days after the contest conclusion.

### **ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS**

#### **A. Ranking**

##### **1. International Quartet and Chorus Contests**

Contestants in international contests will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores awarded by the panel of judges with ties broken as indicated below.

##### **2. Contests Other Than International Contests**

Contestants in international preliminary, district or division contests need not be ranked, and normally should not be due to the complexity of combining contests on a single official scoring summary. They will be listed on the official scoring summary in accordance with the cumulative total scores awarded by the panel of judges with ties broken as indicated below.

#### **B. Scores**

##### **1. Reporting After Performance**

The judges will report their scores to the contest administrator immediately following each contestant's performance.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

### **2. Statistical Variances**

During each contest round the contest administrator will notify each category if any statistical variances exist (where one score is statistically higher or lower than the rest of the panel for a song). The judges in that category will review their notes and all scores provided by the panel for either song in the performance. At that time, the judges in that category can change their scores for either song or leave them stand. The contest administrator will make any changes indicated and thereafter the scores are official. (See Position Paper IX. Statistical Variances in Chapter 9 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for more details).

### **C. Ties**

#### **1. Ties Broken**

A tie for any place will be broken by ranking the contestants according to their overall scores in the Singing category and, 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.

#### **2. Medals**

Should a tie situation still occur in a medalist position following the above calculations, any medal(s) specified in Article V that immediately follow(s) the tie ranking will not be awarded. E.g.: With a tie for 3rd medals are awarded to 1, 2, 3, 3, and 5.

### **D. Ineligibility/Disqualification**

#### **1. Reranking**

In the event a contestant is declared ineligible and disqualified for any rule violation after the results are announced or published, its listing will be removed and its rank order (where applicable) shall be filled by the next ranked contestant, and a revised official scoring summary will be published accordingly. All remaining contestants will have their order adjusted accordingly.

#### **2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards**

If the ineligible and disqualified contestant was given a medal or other award as one of the top-ranked competitors in a contest, all members of the disqualified quartet or chorus must return the awards to the Society or district for award to the appropriate contestant.

## **ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

### **A. Contestants' Order of Appearance (OOA)**

#### **1. Draw for Singing Order; Excused Absence**

The order of appearance will be assigned by random draw regardless of ensemble classification. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn. Alternatively the order may be assigned by a predetermined objective seeding method. However, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the contestant, the contest administrator or the district representative for contest and judging (prior to a contest for other than an international contest) may excuse an appearance other than in assigned order.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

- a. During contest:* The contest administrator will determine whether to give an excused contestant the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session, or if the round consists of multiple sessions, after all other contestants in that contest round.
- b. Prior to a contest:* For other than an international contest the district representative for contest and judging may equitably determine a modification to the order of appearance for reasons beyond the control of the contestants. For international contests the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair may equitably determine a modification to the order of appearance for reasons beyond the control of the contestants.

### **B. Unexcused Absence**

Any contestant, not excused, that fails to perform in its assigned order of appearance will be penalized. The contest administrator will assess a penalty of five points per scoring judge. A penalized contestant will have the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

### **C. OOA in Case of Absences by Multiple Contestants**

If there are two or more excused or penalized contestants, their order of appearance will be determined by the contest administrator.

### **D. Failure to Appear During Round**

Any contestant that fails to appear in any round will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round in that contest.

### **E. Request to Sing First in a Contest**

#### **1. Written Request Prior to Draw**

- a. International contests:* Prior to the date of the official draw for singing order, a chorus or quartet participating in an international contest may request in writing to the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chair that it be permitted to sing at the beginning of the contest.
- b. District contests:* Prior to the date of the official draw for singing order, a chorus or quartet participating in a district or division contest may request in writing to hosting district's district representative for contest and judging that it be permitted to sing at the beginning of the contest, subject to district policy.

#### **2. Multiple Requests**

If more than one group requests to sing at the beginning of a contest, a drawing prior to the official order draw will be held among those contestants to determine the order in which they will sing at the beginning of the contest.

## BHS Contest Rules

### ARTICLE IX: SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS

#### A. Songs

##### 1. Barbershop Style

All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style. (See style definition in Chapter 2 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook*.) A song performed in contest should have melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style, must be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent and must be in good taste.

**2. Music Category Elements:** In a contest certain musical elements are so significant to the style that deficiencies must be noted explicitly in order to provide sufficient information on the basis for the scoring and for performer feedback.

- a. *Unaccompanied:* 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. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judges(s).
- b. *Four-part Texture:* In chorus contest performances of songs selected use of a soloist, duet, trio or quartet is acceptable as long as it is brief and appropriate. However, at no time should the musical texture exceed four parts. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judges(s). The spoken word, brief and appropriate, is not considered an additional “part” in this context.
- c. *Melody:* The melody should be present and distinguishable and is most consistently sung by the lead, with the tenor harmonizing above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completing the chord. Excessive passages with the melody not in an inside voice will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judge(s) only.
- d. *Characteristic Chord Progressions:* The song’s harmony must feature the natural occurrence of dominant seventh (and ninth) chords based on a variety of roots. Chord progressions in the barbershop style are based on the harmonic practice of dominant seventh (and ninth) chords resolving around the circle of fifths, while also making use of other resolutions. Songs lacking these characteristic chord progressions will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judge(s) only.
- e. *Lyrics:* Lyrics should be sung by all four parts through most of the song’s duration. Excessive passages without words in all four parts will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judge(s) only.
- f. *Other Issues:* Songs not consistent with the barbershop style for any other musical reason (including chord vocabulary or lack of homorhythmic texture) will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s).

##### 3. Performance Category Elements

- a. *Patriotic or Religious Intent:* Songs primarily patriotic or primarily religious in intent will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judge(s). (See PER CD of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for levels of penalties.)

## BHS Contest Rules

- b. *Good Taste*: Songs or actions by a contestant that are not in good taste will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judge(s). (See Position Paper III. Taste in Chapter 9 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for details.)

### B. Copyright Compliance

Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs for contest. Violations of this article relating to copyright law compliance are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the Society executive director.

## ARTICLE X: SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING

### A. Equipment

#### 1. Provision and Operation; Monitor Speakers Permitted

The best possible sound equipment will be provided, if needed, by hosts of convention/contests. Monitor speakers are permitted and encouraged. Sound equipment should be operated by a competent operator.

#### 2. Testing and Approval

The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest 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 indicated approval of the stage, lighting, and sound setup.

### B. Restrictions and Exception

#### 1. Offstage Use of House System

Contestants may not make offstage use of the house sound system.

#### 2. Recorded Music or Spoken Word

The use of recorded music (vocal or instrumental) and/or recordings of the spoken word is not permitted.

#### 3. Electronic Enhancement

Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices. The use of any other technology to enhance the singing voice is not permitted. (See Position Paper XII. Electronic Enhancement & Sound Effects in Chapter 9 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for more details.)

#### 4. Electronic Pitch; Sound Effects

Contestants may use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited sound effects. Sound effects, electronic or otherwise, deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s). In order to avoid surprise and potential delay for inquiry, contestants should communicate planned use of loud or unusual sound effects to the contest administrator prior to the performance.



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### C. Jurisdiction and Penalties

Violations of Article X.B.1, X.B.2 and X.B.3 are subject to penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Singing judges(s). Article X.B.4 is judged holistically by the Performance judges(s).

## ARTICLE XI: STAGING

### A. Restrictions

#### 1. Non-Members and the “Stage”

Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance. Violation of this rule in contest will result in the performance being declared ineligible and disqualified. (See Article I for membership eligibility/violations.) The stage is defined by the performer/performance, and thus may on occasion extend past traditional boundaries set forth by the performance venue. While this may allow for choruses and quartets to build rapport with, or generate response from the audience, the song(s) must be performed solely by members of the competing chorus or quartet. In the event this comes into question, the Contest Administrator, with assistance from the Performance judges, will make a determination if a non-member violation has occurred.

#### 2. Bad Taste

Barbershop performances should not contain vulgar, suggestive or otherwise distasteful actions or lyrics. In addition to adjudication with penalties and potential forfeiture by the Performance judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Contest Administrator per Article XIV.A.3. In consultation with the Performance judge(s) the Contest Administrator will determine if the performance may be rescheduled or adjudicated up to the point of stoppage.

### B. Jurisdiction and Adjudication

The Performance judge(s) will have jurisdiction over issues of bad taste and staging, other than as provided for international contest staging noted in section C below. (See the Performance category description in Chapter 6 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook* for a discussion of unacceptable staging.)

### C. International Contest Staging

#### 1. Chorus Loading

*a. Time expectation:* Choruses are expected to get on stage in a prompt manner as to ensure the contest flows smoothly. Development of additional staging detracts from the flow of the contest. From the time the chorus is given approval to assemble on the stage to the moment the chorus indicates it is ready to perform, it is reasonable that a chorus of less than 50 will be onstage and ready within 6 minutes, 50-100 will be ready within 7 minutes, and more than 100 onstage within 8 minutes.

*b. Penalty:* Exceeding this time frame will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (150 points from the composite score earned by the performance). The

## BHS Contest Rules

stage crew will keep the official time and the panel chair (or designated representative) will be present for the loading process to ensure fairness and will provide exceptions for issues beyond the chorus' control. Nothing in this rule is intended to discourage an individual or individuals entering or exiting at a time that is different from the bulk of the chorus or an indication of readiness. Warnings will be given at 1 minute and 30 seconds. At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers.

### 2. Props

- a. Restrictions:* If props and/or stage enhancements are to be used, they must be simple enough that at most two men can carry and set them up, and they must be freestanding.
- Nothing can be attached to or leaned against the riser (back) safety rails.
  - No extensions to the end risers are permitted.
  - At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers.
  - No props or stage enhancements can be used that may contravene local fire and safety codes (open flame, fireworks, open water other than in a glass or pitcher, etc.)
- b. Penalty:* Violations of the preceding will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (150 points from the composite score earned by the performance). The stage crew, with the concurrence of the panel chair, will make this determination.
- c. Financial liability*
- 1) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that damages microphones and/or lights will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHS for the replacement in kind of the damaged equipment.
  - 2) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that results in alteration to the condition of the stage and/or house and requires additional labor to rectify the stage and/or house to its pre-performance condition will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHS for the total cost of the labor incurred.

### 3. Cleanup

- a. Restrictions:* Confetti and similar small material that requires extensive cleanup are banned from use in both chorus and quartet contests. Other materials which are difficult to clean-up (requiring mops, brooms, vacuum cleaners, etc.) are strongly discouraged from the stage.
- b. Penalty:* Any clean-up longer than 60 seconds will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (150 points from the composite score earned by the performance). This does not include the pick-up of coats, tables, vests, etc., that do not require further cleaning. Time will begin from the start of the clean-up effort and kept by the stage crew, with the concurrence of the panel chair. At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers during cleanup.

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### **ARTICLE XII: NON-SINGING COMMENT/DIALOGUE**

#### **A. Spoken comments**

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.

#### **B. Adjudication**

Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).

### **ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES**

#### **A. Forfeiture**

A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. Forfeiture or any penalty is appropriate only when specifically provided for in these rules.

#### **B. Inclusion in Official Scoring Summary**

Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.

#### **C. No Public Announcement**

There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture.

### **ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF CONTEST**

#### **A. Contest Administrator Responsibility and Authority**

##### **1. Authority for Contest Operation**

Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the contest administrator is completely in charge of the operation of the contest, subject to the final authority of the panel chair for international quartet and chorus contests (Article IV.B.3).

##### **2. Contest Environment**

The contest administrator is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants. Action on environmental issues will consider contestants, audience, and panel, in that order of priority.

##### **3. Stopping Performance and Rescheduling**

*a. Sole Authority:* The contest administrator alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging, and may reschedule the entire performance later in the contest if appropriate.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

- b. Repeat Performance:* At the sole discretion of the contest administrator, a contestant may be allowed to repeat an entire performance later in the contest.
- c. Cancellation and Rescheduling:* If the contest administrator must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round 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.

### **B. Announcements**

Announcement of the results of the contest will be the responsibility of the Society president for international contests and the responsibility of the respective districts for all other contests.

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### OFFICIAL BHS CONTEST RULES: Revision history

Adopted 6/29/93; Revised 1/28/94; 7/5/94; 7/4/95; 2/2/96; 4/19/97; 11/1/97; 4/4/98; 10/31/98; 1/31/99; 1/31/00;

**1/25/02** amends II.C.1 to include affiliate quartets and set standards for their qualifying scores; updates II.D.1 on seniors contest entry; revises II.D.6 on seniors competing out-of-district.

**4/15/02** corrects typo in II.D.5

**1/24/03** amends I.A.1 quartet membership in the competing district; amends V.F.3 to extend seniors quartet contest awards to fourth and fifth place medalists.

**7/1/03** amends II.C.2 which sets minimum number (40) of quartets at international quartet contest; replaces Article XII in its entirety to describe non-singing dialogue.

**1/30/04** amends I.B.5.c to assign DRCJ or the SCJC chair (as the case may be) as arbiter of exceptions or interpretations of eligibility; revises I.B.6 to include three subsections to describe controlling authority of eligibility of members to compete in chorus contests; revises I.B.9 to include three subsections on violations; amends VII to sort printed order of ties on score sheet by tie-breaking formula; cleans up administrative oversight on V.E 2 and 3 to include "plus ties."

**11/06/04** amends II.C.1 to set minimum number of 45 Society quartets at international contest.

**1/28/05** amends IX.D to include category responsibility for adjudicating penalties.

**7/5/05** amends I.A.3 to clarify when a quartet can change its district designation; moves V.D.2 to I.A.4 and clarifies when a quartet must get approval to compete out of district for the international quartet preliminary contest; amends Article VII to clarify medal distribution when a tie situation occurs; updates IX.A and IX.D to clarify harmony consist with barbershop style as performed vice implied

**1/25/06** final formatting and editing

**11/04/06** adds IV.D on use of certified judges from Harmony Incorporated or affiliated organizations; former IV.D renamed IV.E

**1/26/07** amends X.B on use of sound technology.

**3/30/07** amends I.A and I.B to clarify registration as condition of eligibility; expands and reorders violations procedures (now I.C.) to include quartets, set time limits for reports, require signed reports, and anticipate revised scoring summary; moves II.D.6 to I.A.4 for consistent statement on out-of-district permission; amends II.C and II.D to specify entry dates and standard wording; adds II.E on international chorus entry to specify entry date, clarify eligibility certification, and add roster submission; adds II.F to clarify existing policy and procedure on copyright clearance; clarifies in V.A. that term song includes a medley; cleans up V.F.1 as registration requirement is now in I.A.7 and V.A.3; clarifies V.F.3 on international seniors medalists; amends V.G to add minimum score for international wildcard choruses; amends V.H. to define procedure for replacing wildcard chorus; updated V.G.3 and V.H.2 then relocate to II.E.1 & 2 as entry policies; format and spelling corrections.

**7/02/07** clarifies V.D.1 on quartet prelims being held in spring; relocates some II.D.1 language to V.F on seniors quartet preliminaries.

**11/03/07** amends IX.B to permit brief subunits in chorus performances; adds I.B.10 on out-of-district chorus contests; revises I.E.1 and I.E.2 to accommodate potential out-of-district chorus.

**1/25/08** amends II.F on copyright compliance regarding documentation and performance; adds VII.D on ranking and awards after disqualification; rearranges I.B.7-10 to more closely parallel I.A. sections; headings and subheadings provided for clarity and readability; adds table of contents.

**3/30/08** amends II.B on district contest entry deadline and entry form availability to permit district policy on timing; adds V.A.4 to clarify that districts may hold qualifying rounds for selection of their international contest representatives; amends VIII.A to permit DRCJ to amend OOA for good

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cause; amends VIII.E on the process for international chorus contestant requesting to sing at beginning of contest; amends IX.D.3 to put copyright law compliance under executive director jurisdiction; clarifies wording of I.A.3 on quartet holding memberships in more than one district. **11/01/08** amends I.B.1 on membership/associate status of competing chorus directors; clarifies that lack of contest registration is enforceable eligibility issue and that director is part of competing chorus.

**1/29/09** amends I.B and I.C. to eliminate contest cycle concept and permit simpler eligibility test (chapter membership at contest); subsections of I.B and I.C renumbered; adds II.E.1.c to address international chorus contest scoring pool ties; amends IV.D on appointment of judges from other organizations; amends IV.B and IV.C to permit SCJC to use candidate judges in district contests when appropriate; amends V.A.2 to clarify song repetition rule; combines affiliate seniors quartet invitation language in II.D.1.c and V.G.2; amends IX.D to place penalties for barbershop style violations with the Music category.

**4/24/09** amends II.D.1.b to address ties for 25th in the international seniors quartet scoring pool; amends II.E.1.b to provide that the number of international scoring pool (wild card) choruses is determined and publicized by executive director; amends V.D.3 to provide that the target score for international quartet qualifying, rather than being set each year, remains as established until changed; amends II.D.1.d, V.E.2, V.G.2, and V.I.2 to specify that affiliate invitations are made by executive director on behalf of the Society board.

**6/28/10** amends V.E.6 to permanently add special recognition to highest ranking new quartet in International quartet contest.

**1/27/11** amends IV.B.3 to codify panel chair for international quartet and chorus contests; amends XIV.A to indicate final authority of international panel chair and to clarify priority of parties in resolving environmental issues at contests.

**3/31/12** amends I.A.1.a & c to provide that all quartets competing in the international quartet contest must be members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**7/03/12** amends I.A.4.c to provide for quartets requesting to compete out of district for other than a preliminary contest and clarifies timing of all requests; amends IV.C.2 to remove requirement for double panel at district contests that are not international preliminary contests also, and amends IV.C.3 to include district contests.

**1/10/13** amends III.C to address confusion on ‘artistry’ element by inclusion of ‘appropriate vocal expression’ to clarify the actual skills that are evaluated by the singing category.

**3/17/13** amends I.A.3 to change date of selection of home district (due to new beginning of prelims season); amends I.A.4 and I.B.6 to allow for newly registered quartets and newly chartered chapter choruses; amends II.C.1 to limit district quartet representative to those declared prior to home district contest; amends V.A.4, V.D.1, V.F.1&2, V.H.1, to remove impediments requiring two preliminary conventions per year. [This change is effective for preliminary contests selecting representatives for international contests in 2014. In coordination with the SCJC, districts may hold international preliminary contests in either spring or fall starting in fall 2013.]

**8/11/13** amends II.C to permit qualifying quartet for international contest to replace one member and remain eligible to compete, resulting in new II.E and re-lettering of II. F & G; amends II.F.4 to remove hard copy requirement and align clearance documentation with current practice; amends V.D to clarify that first weekend in May is end of preliminary quartet period; amends VII.B at add statistical variance process in reviewing scores before they become final.

**8/24/14** amends I.A.4.b & c to permit new quartets registered after their home district prelims entry deadline to compete OOD without home district approval, only information copy to DRCJ.

**1/08/15** amends Foreword and I.A.5 to permit exception on multiple quartet eligibility as delegated to SCJC; VII.B.2 to expand variance process to both songs of a set should either have a variance;

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amends IX to limit penalties and adjudicate issues with quality of performance scoring; amends IX.A.3 to clarify that the spoken word is not additional part for chorus; amends X to include future electronic technology and transfers jurisdiction from PRS to SNG; amends XI.B on adjudication and penalties for staging; adds a new XI.C section on international staging for choruses; amends XII to include spoken word adjudication within quality of performance; amends XIII.A to limit penalties to explicit rules provisions.

**2/22/15** changes minimum international quartet qualifying score in II.C.1.d to 70 for 2016 (Nashville) and includes provision that quartet competing OOD must achieve at least qualifying score in order to be district representative.

**4/26/15** amends I.A.1.a & c to remove requirement that quartets from affiliates competing in the international quartet contest had to also be members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**1/28/16** amends II.B.1 to modernize how entry form is made available and place responsibility with DRCJ; amends II.D.1 to remove obsolete language requiring DRCJ to report name of representative quartet and members; amends II.D.4 to change entry deadline for international seniors quartet contest to 15 Dec to account for holiday closure and early midwinter conventions; amends II.G.4 to reflect current practice for songs sung but not submitted on entry form; amends Art. III to change Presentation category to Performance category; amends various sections to implement that category change; amends IV.A to permit SCJC to certify best qualified judges regardless of gender; amends IV.C.1 for clarity; amends IV.D to remove requirement for certificate of completion for appointment; amends V.D.3 on timing of target score change to reflect current annual contest cycle; amends VIII.A.1 to permit SCJC to modify international contest OOA; amends VIII.E to allow request to sing first even after draw.

**1/19/17** amends V.D.3 to delegate setting of quartet target score to the executive director

**7/4/17** updates Society Contest & Judging office references to Society Headquarters (Customer Service) to reflect current practice; deletes I.B.5 as unnecessary; removes I.C.1 signature requirement; updates II on entry procedures to reflect use of online entry vice paper forms; clarifies X.B.4 to avoid confusion re improper use of house system; clarifies X.C. regarding penalties; clarifies XI.A.2 action by CA; corrects grammar in XI.C.3.a.

**5/15/18** (edits made to implement board's desire to place operational matters with executive director and SCJC) amends II.C.1.c to provide that the number of international quartets and scoring pool (wild card) is determined by the executive director; amends II.C.1.d to delegate setting of quartet minimum score to the executive director; amends II.D.1.b to provide for executive director to set number of international seniors quartet entrants; amends II.F.1.b to delegate setting of chorus minimum score to the executive director; amends II.F.4.b to reflect optional nature of M&P VP; amends V.D.1, V.E.1, V.F.1, V.G.1, V.H.1 and V.I.1 to provide operational supervision by the executive director; amends XI.A.1 to clarify definition of stage.

**8/19/18** amend the foreword to clarify applicability of contest eligibility rules to male groups; amends I.A.5 to provide limit on essentially same quartet competing under multiple names; amends Art.I.B.1 to provide that female directors must be Society members; amends II.C.1 on affiliate quartet qualification and to increase minimum number of Society quartets from 45 to 50; amends II.D.1 and II.F.1 to provide minimum score for international seniors quartet and international chorus contestants; clarifies in II.E that quartet member replace not permitted during contest; amends V.G.2 to remove the limit of one quartet per affiliate; amends VII.C to provide for tie breaking for all places with tie breakers being SNG and PER, in that order; amends VIII to permit requests to sing first at any level for both quartet and chorus; amends IX.A.3 to provide penalty for chorus exceeding four-part texture; amends XIV.A.3 to provide for rescheduling entire performance only; corrects several typos.

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**1/09/19** specifies in Foreword that all international and international preliminary contest references are limited to men's quartets and choruses at present; clarifies membership requirement in Art. I.A.1.a since FHT is no longer explicit chapter in Member Center; provides equity in Art.I.B.1.a for all directors by addressing female director membership when not permitted by appropriate chapter bylaws; clarifies II.E.1 member replacement after start of first song; adds V.A.5 to permit districts to create gender-specific contests; clarifies V.F.4.a to include director in chorus roster.

**2/04/19** clarifies Art.I.B.2 on chorus per chapter per contest; edits Art.II.F.4.b to remove optional M&P VP as signatory.

**7/04/19** amends chairman to chair for consistency with other C&J documents; clarifies Art.I.C.3 as including II.E and X.A.1 disqualification; clarifies name of *Official Register of Certified Judges* in Art.IV; specifies in Art.IV.C.3 that SCJC determines panel size for district contests; amends Art.V title to include general provisions in Art.V.A; amends Art. VII.A to remove ranking for other than international contests; clarifies Art.XI.A.2 action on stoppage of performance for bad taste.

**8/20/19** amends Art.I.B to permit distinctly different choruses from same chapter or conjoined chapters to compete for same award; reorders Art.I.B.2-4 for better logical arrangement; amends Art.II.1.c to reduce the minimum number of BHS quartets from 50 to 40. However, it also now requires the total number of invited quartets to be at least 50, including alliance quartets; amends Art.V.D.3 to reflect the increase of the automatic qualifying target score from 76 to 78; amends various sections to reflect change of terminology from affiliate organization to alliance organization as BHS has changed alliance agreements.

**10/25/19** amended footnote on first page to indicate upcoming changes for 2021 international contests and related prelims; add footnotes to Art.I.A re prospective amendments after Spring 2019 prelims cycle; amend Art.I.B to remove requirement for out-of-district permission; add footnote to Art.II.C.1 re minimum score and minimum number of Society quartets after 2020 international; amend Art.II.F.1 to include a chorus target score for prelims; amend II.F.1 to remove references to competing in home district contest; amend Art.II.F.1.d to increase minimum chorus score to 74; add footnotes to Art.V preliminary contest section to change preliminary contests to optional starting Fall 2020

**1/06/20** amended foreword and first page footnote to reflect changes for 2021 international contests and related prelims; added definitions for ensemble classifications; simplified eligibility article for global alliance ensembles by reference to respective MOU; added new quartet package categories to eligibility rules; amends Art.I.A.5 to permit member to compete in multiple ensemble classifications; amends Art.I.A.6 to limit prior champions from repeating; amends Art.I.B.5 re layout of all classifications of international champion choruses; adds Art.I.D to restrict extra eligibility conditions; amend Art.II.C.1.d to indicate 2021 change in minimum quartet score; amends Art.II.E.2 to clarify that member replacement may not result in classification change; amends Art.II.D.1.e to permit district option on local seniors contests; amends Art.V.F to allow for all quartet classifications in 2021; deletes Art.V.A.4 since a single prelims is not required in each district; amends Art.V.F.6 to provide medal options for all classifications; amend Art.V.E.6 and Art.V.I.4 to provide international champion within a classification and up to four additional medalist in each classification with number to be determined by the executive director; adds Art.VI.B to address timing of revised OSS; amends Art.IX.3.b and Art. XI.A.2 to provide penalties for lack of good taste in a performance.

**6/25/20** revise foreword and remove footnotes related to LA 2020 international contests; amend Art.I.A.2 to clarify seniors quartets limited to males; amend Art.I.A.4 to limit out-of-district approval only to requested district DRCJ with information to home district DRCJ; reduce time requirement for OOD requests from 30 to 10 days since only DRCJ approval required; amend Art.I.B.4 re distinctly separate choruses in prelims; amend Art.I.B.6 to clarify two cycle layout;



## **BHS Contest Rules**

amend Art.II.C.1 to indicate target score qualification is primary with district representative selection only when no district quartet qualifies by score; Art.II.C.1.d on minimum Society quartets to return to prior number (45); amend Art.II.C.1.e on minimum quartet score; add subsections Art.II.C.1.f & II.F.1.g re change of ensemble classification after qualification; amend Art.III.A on MUS category.

## **BHS Contest Rules**

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