

CONTEST RULES



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

Barbershop Harmony Society

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Society Board of Directors through its August 2018 meeting.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Contest Rules

Contents

FOREWORD	7
ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY	7
A. QUARTETS	7
1. Membership and Quartet Registration Requirements	7
a. Society and Chapter.....	7
b. District	7
c. Affiliates.....	7
d. Quartet Registration.....	7
2. Seniors Quartet	7
3. Selection of Home District	8
4. Out of District Competition.....	8
a. Request.....	8
b. Action	8
c. Deadline.....	8
5. Competing in Multiple Quartets.....	8
6. Championship Quartets	9
a. Not Eligible to Compete.....	9
b. Forming New Quartet.....	9
7. Convention Registration	9
B. CHORUSES	9
1. Membership Requirements	9
a. Society	9
b. Affiliates.....	9
2. One Chorus per Chapter	9
3. Minimum Size	9
4. Competing in Multiple Choruses.....	9
5. Out of District Competition.....	9
a. Request.....	9
b. Action	9
c. Review.....	10
d. Deadline	10
6. Layout After Championship	10
7. Convention Registration	10
C. VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE I.....	10
1. Reporting Violation	10
2. Format	10
3. Effect of Violation.....	10
ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES.....	11
A. DIVISION CONTESTS	11
B. DISTRICT CONTESTS AND INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY CONTESTS.....	11

BHS Contest Rules

1. Contest Entry.....	11
2. Deadline.....	11
C. INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTESTS.....	11
1. Contestant Qualification.....	11
a. District Representative	11
b. Attainment of Target Score	11
c. Scoring Pool	11
d. Minimum Score	11
e. Affiliate Quartet Invitations.....	12
2. Qualifying Quartet Replacement.....	12
a. Replacement of District Representative:.....	12
b. Replacement of Scoring Pool Quartet	12
3. Contest Entry and Deadline	12
D. INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET CONTESTS	12
1. Contest Qualification	12
a. District Representative	12
b. Scoring Pool.....	12
c. Affiliate Seniors Quartets.....	12
d. Minimum Score	12
e. Other Seniors Quartet Contests	13
2. Notification and Indication of Intent	13
3. Qualifying Quartet Replacement.....	13
a. District Representative	13
b. Scoring Pool.....	13
c. Cut-Off Date.....	13
4. Contest Entry and Deadline	13
E. PERSONNEL CHANGE IN QUARTETS.....	13
1. Change During Contest Not Permitted	13
2. Personnel Change in Qualifying Quartets	13
a. International Quartet and Seniors Quartet Contests	13
b. District and Division Contests.....	13
F. INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTESTS	14
1. Contest Qualification.....	14
a. District Representative	14
b. Scoring Pool.....	14
c. Scoring Pool Ties	14
d. Minimum Score	14
e. Affiliate Choruses	14
2. Replacement	14
a. District Representative	14
b. Scoring Pool.....	14
c. Replacement OOA.....	14
d. Acceptance and Replacement Cut-off Date	15
3. Contest Entry and Deadline	15
4. Roster and Certification Submission.....	15
a. Roster Submission	15
b. Certification Statement	15
c. Validation.....	15

BHS Contest Rules

d. Eligibility Confirmation	15
e. Effect of Noncompliance	15
G. COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE	15
1. Observance of Copyright Laws	15
2. Contest Songs and Entry Certification	15
3. Multiple Song Entry	16
4. Use of Song Not Listed On Entry	16
5. Effect of Noncompliance.....	16
ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES	16
A. MUSIC	16
B. PERFORMANCE.....	16
C. SINGING	16
ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES.....	17
A. CERTIFICATION	17
B. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PANELS	17
1. Appointment.....	17
2. International Contest with Double Panel Minimum.....	17
3. International Contests with Quintuple Panel.....	17
C. APPOINTMENT OF DIVISION, DISTRICT, AND INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY PANELS.....	17
1. Appointment.....	17
2. Contests with Double Panel Minimum	18
3. District and Division Contests	18
D. APPOINTMENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	18
E. PANEL EXPENSE ALLOWANCE	18
ARTICLE V: TYPES OF CONTESTS.....	18
A. ALL CONTESTS	18
1. Sessions	18
2. Song Repetition.....	18
a. Substantial Part Repeated	18
b. Recommendation by Music Judge(s).....	18
c. Recommendation Unanimous	19
d. Recommendation Not Unanimous.....	19
3. Convention Registrations.....	19
4. District Qualifying Rounds for International Preliminary Contests	19
B. DIVISION CONTESTS AND DISTRICT CHORUS CONTESTS	19
C. DISTRICT QUARTET CONTESTS.....	19
1. Adjudication.....	19
2. Elimination Round and Number in Finals	19
D. INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY QUARTET CONTESTS	19
1. Timing and Supervision.....	19
2. Adjudication.....	19

BHS Contest Rules

3. Number of Finalist Quartets	20
E. INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTESTS.....	20
1. Timing and Supervision.....	20
2. Contestants.....	20
3. Quarterfinals Adjudication	20
4. Semifinals Adjudication	20
5. Finals Adjudication	20
6. Ranking and Awards.....	20
F. INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY SENIORS QUARTET CONTESTS.....	21
1. Timing and Supervision.....	21
2. Semifinal Round of Another Contest.....	21
3. Adjudication.....	21
G. INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET CONTESTS	21
1. Timing and Supervision.....	21
2. Contestants.....	21
3. Adjudication.....	21
4. Ranking and Awards.....	21
H. INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY CHORUS CONTESTS	22
1. Timing and Supervision.....	22
2. Adjudication.....	22
I. INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTESTS	22
1. Timing and Supervision.....	22
2. Contestants.....	22
3. Adjudication.....	22
4. Ranking and Awards.....	22
ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS.....	22
A. OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY	22
1. Contents.....	22
2. International Quartet Contests	23
3. Contests Other Than International Quartet Contests.....	23
ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS.....	23
A. RANKING	23
B. SCORES	23
1. Reporting After Performance.....	23
2. Statistical Variances.....	23
C. TIES.....	23
1. Ties Broken	23
2. Medals	23
D. INELIGIBILITY/DISQUALIFICATION	24
1. Reranking.....	24
2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards	24

BHS Contest Rules

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE	24
A. CONTESTANTS' ORDER OF APPEARANCE (OOA)	24
1. Draw for Singing Order; Excused Absence	24
a. During contest	24
b. Prior to a contest:	24
B. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE	24
C. OOA IN CASE OF ABSENCES BY MULTIPLE CONTESTANTS	24
D. FAILURE TO APPEAR DURING ROUND	25
E. REQUEST TO SING FIRST IN A CONTEST	25
1. Written Request Prior to Draw	25
2. Multiple Requests	25
ARTICLE IX: SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS.....	25
A. SONGS	25
1. Barbershop Style	25
a. Jurisdiction, Adjudication and Penalties.....	25
2. Unaccompanied	25
3. Chorus Subunits; Four-part Texture	25
B. COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE.....	26
ARTICLE X: SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING	26
A. EQUIPMENT	26
1. Provision and Operation; Monitor Speakers Permitted	26
B. RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTION.....	26
1. Offstage Use of House System	26
2. Recorded Music or Spoken Word	26
3. Electronic Enhancement	26
4. Electronic Pitch; Sound Effects	26
C. JURISDICTION AND PENALTIES	27
ARTICLE XI: STAGING	27
A. RESTRICTIONS.....	27
1. Non-Members and the "Stage"	27
2. Bad Taste	27
B. JURISDICTION AND ADJUDICATION	27
C. INTERNATIONAL CONTEST STAGING.....	27
1. Chorus Loading.....	27
a. Time expectation	27
b. Penalty.....	27
2. Props.....	28
a. Restrictions.....	28
b. Penalty.....	28
c. Financial liability	28
3. Cleanup.....	28

BHS Contest Rules

a. Restrictions	28
b. Penalty	28
ARTICLE XII: NON-SINGING COMMENT/DIALOGUE	29
A. SPOKEN COMMENTS	29
B. ADJUDICATION	29
ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES	29
A. FORFEITURE	29
B. INCLUSION IN OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY	29
C. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT	29
ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF CONTEST	29
A. CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY	29
1. Authority for Contest Operation	29
2. Contest Environment	29
3. Stopping Performance and Rescheduling	29
a. Sole Authority	29
b. Repeat Performance	30
c. Cancellation and Rescheduling	30
B. ANNOUNCEMENTS	30
OFFICIAL BHS CONTEST RULES: Revision history	31

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Contest Rules

Updated 8/19/2018

FOREWORD

These rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests at the division, district and international levels in the Society. In these rules, the definition of the district chorus contest is the contest at which the district chorus champion is selected. 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.

The terms 'member' or 'members' within these rules for official BHS contest eligibility apply to male Society members only.¹

Any requests for exception to any of the following rules on eligibility must be made to the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chairman.

ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

A. Quartets

1. Membership and Quartet Registration Requirements

- a. *Society and Chapter:* Except for those quartets from affiliated organizations which have been invited to participate in the international quartet contest or in the international seniors quartet contest, all members of competing quartets must be members of one or more Society chapters, including Frank H. Thorne Chapter. A member of the Society is defined as one whose Society, district, and chapter dues are paid, whether or not such dues have been forwarded to the district or Society by the chapter, and who is not under suspension by the chapter or the Society Board of Directors.
- b. *District:* At least one member of the quartet must be a member of a chapter in the district in which the quartet elects to compete.
- c. *Affiliates:* All members of a competing quartet from an affiliated organization must be members in good standing of the affiliated organization.
- d. *Quartet Registration:* To be eligible for competition, a quartet must be registered with the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) or, in the case of quartets from affiliated organizations, with their affiliated organization, and such registration must include the same personnel that enter the contest.

2. Seniors Quartet

Each member of a quartet competing in the international seniors quartet contest must be age 55 or older and the sum of the accumulated ages of the quartet must equal or exceed

¹ With the integration of female members into some Society choruses and quartets beginning in 2019, the Society board and staff will be considering potential additional official BHS contests for female and mixed harmony groups.

BHS Contest Rules

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 chapters 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.

4. Out of District Competition

- a. *Request:* Under normal circumstances, quartets are expected to compete in their home districts. In exceptional circumstances, however, a quartet may request to compete in a district other than their home district.
- b. *Action:* Such requests by quartets to compete in a district other than their home district must be unanimously approved by the requested district's district representative for contest and judging and district president, and the home district's district representative for contest and judging and district president. However, if a new quartet initially registers with the Society Headquarters (Customer Service) (Art.I.A.1.d) after its home international preliminary contest deadline, it only needs approval of the requested district's district representative for contest and judging and district president. In this case, the home district's district representative for contest and judging will receive an information copy of the request.
- c. *Deadline:*
 - (1) For international preliminary quartet contests and international preliminary seniors quartet contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the official entry deadline for the earlier international preliminary contest of the affected districts, regardless of the international preliminary contest in which the quartet is planning to compete, or, in the case of a new quartet registered after its home district preliminary contest deadline, at least 30 days prior to the requested district's preliminary contest official entry deadline.
 - (2) For division and district contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the official entry deadline of the out of district contest for which entry is desired.

5. Competing in Multiple Quartets

In international and international preliminary contests a member may compete with only one quartet, regardless of the number of quartets or districts to which the member belongs. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be made to the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chairman. 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.

BHS Contest Rules

6. Championship Quartets

- a. *Not Eligible to Compete*: Except in division contests, championship quartets of other years will not be eligible to compete again for that championship.
- b. *Forming 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.

B. Choruses

1. Membership Requirements

- a. *Society*: Except for those choruses from affiliated organizations that have been invited to participate in the international chorus contest, all members of competing choruses, except female directors, must be members of the Society and of each chapter they choose to represent in competition. A female director must be a Society member (as defined in Society rules and regulations). Chapters represented in Society chorus contests must be in good standing with the Society and their districts.
- b. *Affiliates*: All members of competing choruses from affiliated organizations, except the director, must be members in good standing of that affiliated organization and of the chapter or club that they represent in competition.

2. One Chorus per Chapter

Chapters may not enter more than one chorus in any Society-sponsored contest.

3. Minimum Size

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director.

4. Competing in Multiple Choruses

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

5. Out of District Competition

- a. *Request*: Under normal circumstances, choruses are expected to compete in their home districts. In exceptional circumstances, however, a chorus may request to compete in a district other than its home district.
- b. *Action*: Such requests by choruses to compete in a district other than their home district shall be submitted to the home district's district representative for contest and judging and must include explicit reasons for the request. Any request must be unanimously approved by the requested district's district representative for contest and judging and its district president, and the home district's district representative for contest and judging and its district president. If approved or denied by all parties, a report will be made to the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chairman, by the home district's district representative for contest and judging.

BHS Contest Rules

c. *Review:* If opinion is not unanimous among the parties, the request shall be forwarded by the home district's district representative for contest and judging to the Society Contest and Judging Committee, through its chairman, for review and recommendation and the Society executive director who shall provide final resolution to ensure consistent and equitable application of this provision throughout the Society.

d. *Deadline:*

- (1) For international preliminary chorus contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the official entry deadline for the earlier international preliminary contest of the affected districts, regardless of the international preliminary contest in which the chorus is planning to compete, unless the chapter the chorus represents is chartered after the entry deadline for their home district international preliminary contest.
- (2) For division and district contests, this request must be submitted at least 30 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 are not eligible to compete for the international championships to be awarded for the 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 of Article I

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 chairman, (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, are ineligible and will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary.

BHS Contest Rules

ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

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 (normally online) will be made available to each eligible contestant within the district by the district official(s) as specified by the district at least 30 days prior to the contest entry deadline. The DRCJ is responsible for notifying each eligible contestant of the 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 chairman, 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. *District Representative*: The highest scoring quartet from each district competing in any international preliminary quartet contest shall qualify to represent that district in the international quartet contest. In order to qualify as the district representative a quartet competing out of its home district must have obtained permission to do so prior to its home district preliminary contest and must attain at least the target score (Article V.D.3). If the highest scoring quartet from a district fails to attain the target score, the highest scoring quartet competing in its home district preliminary quartet contest shall qualify to represent that district.
- b. *Attainment of Target Score*: In addition, all Society and affiliate 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.
- c. *Scoring Pool*: Prior to the earliest international preliminary quartet contest each year the executive director will determine and publicize the minimum number of Society quartets desired for the next international quartet contest. In the event that fewer than this minimum number of Society quartets are qualified by the above methods (district representative or target score), the remaining quartets to fill out the desired field of Society quartets will be selected by rank from a pool of all those quartets competing in that year's international preliminary quartet contests. [NOTE: Current minimum number of Society quartets is 50.]
- d. *Minimum Score*: In all circumstances to be eligible to compete in the international quartet contest, all quartets, including affiliates, 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

BHS Contest Rules

executive director shall remain in effect until changed by subsequent action by the executive director. [NOTE: Current minimum score is average of 70.]

- e. *Affiliate Quartet Invitations:* Each affiliate is eligible to nominate the highest scoring quartet from its own or another affiliate contest as its representative to the International contest. This quartet will 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 SCJC.

2. Qualifying Quartet Replacement

- a. *Replacement of District Representative:* If prior to the international contest a district representative 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 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.d.
- b. *Replacement of Scoring Pool Quartet:* If, prior to the international contest, a quartet that qualified solely by attainment of the target score 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.

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 chairman, late entries may be accepted.

D. International Seniors Quartet Contests

1. Contest Qualification

- a. *District Representative:* The highest scoring declared seniors quartet from each district competing in their home district's preliminary seniors quartet contest shall be declared the district's representative.
- 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. *Affiliate Seniors Quartets:* In addition to the Society quartets, seniors quartets from affiliated organizations may be invited by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors.
- d. *Minimum Score:* In all circumstances to be eligible to compete in the international seniors quartet contest, all quartets, including affiliates, 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

BHS Contest Rules

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.

2. Notification and Indication of Intent

All district and affiliate representatives and selected at-large quartets will be notified before November 1 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.
- 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.
- 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 chairman, 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 performed first song of contest will result in disqualification.

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. If two or more personnel changes should occur in a qualifying quartet between the international preliminary contest and the corresponding international contest, that quartet becomes ineligible to compete.
- 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.

BHS Contest Rules

F. International Chorus Contests

1. Contest Qualification

- a. *District Representative:* The highest scoring chorus from each district competing in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest shall qualify to represent that district in the international chorus contest.
- b. *Scoring Pool:* In addition, and whether competing in their home district or another district (pursuant to Article I.B.5), the next available highest scoring choruses in the Society will also qualify for the international chorus contest up to a number to be determined and publicized by the executive director prior to the earliest international preliminary chorus contest each year. [NOTE: Current number of scoring pool qualifiers is 10.]
- c. *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.
- d. *Minimum Score:* In all circumstances to be eligible to compete in the international chorus contest, all 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 average of 70.]
- e. *Affiliate Choruses:* In addition to the Society choruses, choruses from affiliated organizations may be invited by the Society executive director on behalf of the Society Board of Directors.

2. Replacement

- a. *District Representative:* If a qualifying chorus that was highest scoring in its home district international preliminary contest cannot compete or chooses not to compete in the international chorus contest, then the next highest ranking chorus that is available from the same district and that competed in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest will be invited to replace the qualifying chorus.
- b. *Scoring Pool:* If a qualifying chorus that was not highest scoring in its home district's international preliminary chorus contest 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.b.. 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.c 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 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 chairman, 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. 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, chapter secretary and chapter music and performance vice president (if applicable):

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

BHS Contest Rules

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 DRCJ (at any contest other than international) or by the panel chairman (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 musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. The judge judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. The judge adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

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.

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

BHS Contest Rules

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 chairman, 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 chairman, to provide an official register of certified and candidate scoring judges and contest administrators. (See Chapter 12 of the *Contest and Judging Handbook*, for policies and additional information on certification.)

B. Appointment of International Panels

1. Appointment

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

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 chairman shall serve as panel chairman for international quartet and chorus contests, unless unavailable for any reason and, in that case, the Committee immediate past chairman shall serve as panel chairman for any session(s) in which the Committee chairman is unavailable. The panel chairman 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 and Contest Administrators* by the Society Contest and Judging Committee through its chairman. An experienced candidate scoring judge or contest administrator may be appointed to the panel upon approval of the category specialist.

BHS Contest Rules

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 and one associate 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 district policy.

D. Appointment from Other Organizations

A judge for division, district, and international preliminary contests may be appointed from a Society affiliated barbershop organization or from Harmony Incorporated. This is the case whether a judge from the *Official Register of Certified Judges and Contest Administrators* 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 chairman.

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: TYPES OF CONTESTS

A. 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 chairman, and an exception in contests other than international may be made by the district representative for contest and judging.

2. Song Repetition

- 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.
- 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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 Qualifying Rounds for International Preliminary Contests

Districts are permitted to establish qualifying rounds contests for selection of their representative to international contests as long as the final selection is made at the appropriate international preliminary contest.

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 will be held in each district once 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 between August of the preceding year through the first weekend in May of the year of the international quartet contest for which quartets are qualifying. The international preliminary quartet contest may also be 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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 the Society Board's annual meeting prior to the year of 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 76.]

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 and affiliate quartets that have qualified by their scores or placements in the international preliminary quartet contests or affiliate qualifying contests (Article II.C.1.e), and those additional quartets from affiliated organizations that may be 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 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 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.

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 will be declared the international quartet champion. Winners of the second, third, fourth, and fifth places will be designated as international medalist quartets, while quartets in sixth through tenth place will be recognized as international finalists. Special recognition shall

BHS Contest Rules

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 will be held in each district once 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 affiliated 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.

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.

BHS Contest Rules

H. International Preliminary Chorus Contests

1. Timing and Supervision

International preliminary chorus contests will be held in each district once 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.

2. Adjudication

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

I. International Chorus Contests

1. Timing and Supervision

The annual international chorus contest 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 affiliated organizations that may be 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

Awards shall be presented to the first through fifth place choruses. The first place chorus will be declared the international chorus champion. Winners of the second, third, fourth, and fifth places will be designated as international medalist choruses.

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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 top ten 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, according to district policy.

ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS

A. Ranking

Contestants will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges.

B. Scores

1. Reporting After Performance

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

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.

BHS Contest Rules

D. Ineligibility/Disqualification

1. Reranking

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

2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards

If the disqualified or ineligible 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. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn. 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.

- 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 chairman 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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 chairman 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.

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 must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style.

- a. *Jurisdiction, Adjudication and Penalties:* Songs not consistent with the barbershop style will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s). Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s). Violation of the provision relating to patriotic or religious intent will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judges(s) only.

2. 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).

3. Chorus Subunits; 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. At no time should the musical texture

BHS Contest Rules

exceed four parts. The spoken word, brief and appropriate, is not considered an additional “part” in this context. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judges(s).

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. 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.

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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 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 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).

B. Jurisdiction and Adjudication

The Performance judge(s) will have jurisdiction over issues of 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.) Aspects of any performance deemed to be in bad taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).

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 stage crew will keep the official time and the panel chairman (or designated representative) will be present for the loading process to ensure fairness and will

BHS Contest Rules

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 chairman, 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 chairman. At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers during cleanup.

BHS Contest Rules

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 chairman 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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 district representative for contest and judging or the SCJC chairman (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.

BHS Contest Rules

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 district representative for contest and judging to amend OOA for good 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 chairman for international quartet and chorus contests; amends XIV.A to indicate final authority of international panel chairman 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;

BHS Contest Rules

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; 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

BHS Contest Rules

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.