

BARBERSHOP IN HARMONY

**CONTEST RULES
For
UK MIXED QUARTETS**



Published by

The BinH nominated representatives of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31.

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For BABS Hosting

This document has been modified to reflect the cyclical hosting arrangements agreed by the BinH nominated representatives of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31.

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DEFINITION OF THE BARBERSHOP STYLE

Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music characterised by consonant four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture. The melody is consistently sung by the lead, with the tenor harmonising above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonising notes, and the baritone completing the chord. Occasional brief passages may be sung by fewer than four voice parts.

Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easily singable melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal centre and imply major and minor chords and barbershop (dominant and secondary dominant) seventh chords that resolve primarily around the circle of fifths, while also making use of other resolutions. Barbershop music also features a balanced and symmetrical form, and a standard meter. The basic song and its harmonisation are embellished by the arranger to provide appropriate support of the song's theme and to close the song effectively.

Barbershop singers adjust pitches to achieve perfectly tuned chords in just intonation whilst remaining true to the established tonal centre. Artistic singing in the barbershop style exhibits a fullness or expansion of sound, precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Ideally, these elements are natural, unmanufactured and free from apparent effort.

The performance of barbershop music uses appropriate musical and visual methods to convey the theme of the song and provide the audience with an emotionally satisfying and entertaining experience. The musical and visual delivery is from the heart, believable, and sensitive to the song and its arrangement throughout. The most stylistic performance artistically melds together the musical and visual aspects to create and sustain the illusions suggested by the music.

OFFICIAL BARBERSHOP IN HARMONY MIXED QUARTET CONTEST RULES

June 2017
(BABS Hosted Event)

FOREWORD

These rules apply to mixed quartet contests only. When the contest takes place at a BABS contest event, in all matters not specifically covered by the BinH rules, the current published Official BABS Contest Rules and BABS Contest and Judging Handbook will apply, which are in line with the BHS. Thereafter, BABS Guild may exercise reasonable latitude and prerogative provided that the established ethics and policies of BABS are closely observed.

ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

A. Quartets

1. Each member shall be a fully paid up member of BABS, LABBS or Sweet Adelines Region 31. A competing Mixed Quartet must contain at least one female and/or at least one male. A mixed quartet may contain up to four Club at Large/Don Amos Club/Chapter at Large members.
2. The Mixed Quartet name and individual membership must be verified by the contest manager, as appointed by the hosting BinH organisation.
3. No professional quartet shall be eligible to enter. A quartet shall be considered professional when its members' principal means of income is from fulfilling quartet engagements.
4. A Mixed Quartet may be registered and be eligible to compete in the BinH Mixed Quartet Contest with any number of quartet champion members from BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31 national contests.
5. At least 3 members of the Mixed Quartet must be UK residents.
6. Previous Mixed Quartet contest winners are eligible to compete again in any Mixed Quartet contest run by any of the three UK barbershop associations.
7. It is permitted to sing in more than one competing quartet in the same Mixed Quartet contest.
8. Personnel Change After Qualifying: To remain eligible for subsequent rounds (if applicable) within a competition cycle/year, at least three members from the mixed quartet should remain constant.
9. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.
10. Right of appeal in any matter pertaining to eligibility shall be to the BABS Guild, whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

1. Contest entry forms shall be published on the BABS website. In addition, the contest entry forms will be made available to LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31 for distribution to their members.
2. Completed entries for the contest and information regarding song titles must be received by the BABS Guild's nominated representative by the date(s) specified. All contestants are required to observe the copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements.
3. The contestant reserves the right to alter songs up until two hours prior to the start of each relevant contest, having informed the CA Category accordingly, including copyright information.

ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES

Each scoring judge awards a score from 0 to 100 for each song. All contestants shall be judged in the three scoring categories:

A. Music

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. He/She adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. He/She 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. He/She 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. He/She responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the performance, but he/she principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. He/She 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. This 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 AND ADMINISTRATORS

1. The Contest Administrators and scoring judges for Preliminary Round, Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall be appointed from the official registers of Registered Judges and Administrators of BABS and LABBS & Sweet Adelines Region 31 by the BABS Guild through the respective Category Directors. The determination of the number of Judges/Administrators for a given contest shall be made by the BABS Guild.
2. The BABS Guild reserves the right to appoint registered judges from other associations if required.
3. Expenses for judges and administrators are payable according to the current published BABS Financial Policy.

ARTICLE V: TYPES OF CONTESTS

A. All Mixed Quartet Contests

1. Contestants should prepare two different songs to perform in one appearance.
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 a 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 the 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/Event Registrations: All contestants shall hold either a full registration, or at minimum a registration for the mixed contest day for the convention at which the contest is held. The BABS November 2017 Quartet event is free to attend. No event registration required.

B. Mixed Quartet Preliminary Round Contest

1. The BinH comprising representatives from the nominated bodies of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31 shall determine whether or not a preliminary round contest shall be held and if so, where and when it should take place. A Mixed Quartet preliminary contest is not required for 2017
2. The qualification criteria or number of contestants going forward from a Preliminary round contest to the Final round shall be determined by the BinH comprising representatives from the nominated bodies of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31

C. Mixed Quartet Final Round Contest

1. The 2017 Mixed Quartet Final Round contest will be held in conjunction with the BABS annual quartet contests held during November and shall be under the general supervision of the BABS Guild.
2. Songs from a preliminary round may be repeated in the Final Round.
3. The winners of the 1st place in the Mixed Quartets competition will be awarded the Neil Watkins Memorial Trophy to hold until the next Mixed Quartet Final competition held by another member organisation of BinH.

D. Selection of Mixed Quartet Representatives

1. A minimum score of 70% is required to be eligible for selection.
2. Representatives for a "World" or European Mixed Quartet Contest will be selected only from those quartets competing in the nominated 'UK Final' contest, previous contest results will not be considered. The barbershop association hosting the World or European contest may consider extra wildcards at their own discretion.
3. Selection of Mixed Quartet Representatives is at the discretion of the BinH comprising representatives from the nominated bodies of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31
4. In the event of a representative quartet withdrawing from a World or European contest substitutions may be made, or additional places offered as long as the minimum score of 70% was reached. This is at the discretion of the BinH team comprising representatives from the nominated bodies of BABS, LABBS and Sweet Adelines Region 31.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS

A. Official Scoring Summary

An official scoring summary shall be published and shall show the contest date, the scores for each song in each category for each contestant, the total score for each contestant, the names of the songs and the names of the official panel members.

ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS

A. Ranking

Contestants shall 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 given song). The judges in that category will review their notes and all scores provided by the panel for either song given 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.

C. Ties

1. First Place Ties

A tie for first place shall 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 Music category. If a tie still exists, the tie shall stand.

2. Other Than First Place

Except for first place ties, tie scores shall not be broken, and the official scoring summary shall list the tied contestants in alphabetical order by the name of the quartet or chorus, as appropriate.

3. Medals

When a tie situation occurs, any medal(s) specified in Article V that immediately follow(s) the tie ranking will not be awarded.

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. 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 medals and/or other award(s), all members of the disqualified quartet or chorus must return the awards to the BinH hosting organisation /contest administrator for performance to the appropriate contestant.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE

1. Contestants shall sing in the order in which their names are drawn by lot or otherwise as determined by the BinH hosting organisation/contest administrator. In the event that circumstances beyond the control of the contestants would prevent them being able to perform except by being placed first or last in the order of appearance, a contestant may make a request in writing to sing first or last, provided the request is submitted (with reasons) to the BinH hosting organisation/contest administrator before the draw is made.
2. Any contestant failing to appear in its assigned order when called, shall be excused by the Chairman of Judges if circumstances were beyond the control of the contestants and shall appear at a time decided by the BinH appointed Chairman of Judges.
3. Any contestant failing to appear in any round shall not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round in that 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 above). A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and implied harmony consistent with the barbershop style.

- 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.

B. Copyright Compliance

Contestants shall comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging and learning of songs for contest performance. The BinH hosting organisations/contest administrator reserves the right to request proof of copyright clearance in advance of, or within a month following the relevant contest round.

B. Penalties

Violation of this article will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by one or more judges as follows:

1. Violations of this article relating to taste and patriotic or religious intent are the responsibility of the Performance judge(s) only.
2. Violations of this article in relation to songs consistent with the barbershop style, including accompaniment, are the responsibility of the Music judge(s) only.
3. Violations of this article relating to copyright law compliance are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the BinH hosting organisation/contest administrator

**ARTICLE X:
SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING**

A. Equipment

1. Provision

The best possible sound equipment shall be provided, if needed. Monitor speakers are permitted. Sound equipment should be operated by a competent operator. .

2. Testing and Approval

The stage setting shall be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested to the satisfaction of the appropriate persons, as agreed by the Category Directors and under the supervision of the Contest Administration Category Director. The contest shall not start until the Chairman of Judges has given his/her approval.

B. Restrictions and Exception

1. Own Equipment

Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices.

2. Offstage use of House System

Contestants may not make offstage use of the house sound system

3. Recorded Music or Spoken Word

Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of recorded music (including singing) and/or recordings of the spoken word. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of technology to enhance the performance electronically.

4. Electronic Pitch and Brief Effects

Contestants may use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited, brief and relevant sound effects.

C. Jurisdiction and Penalties

Violations of Article X.B are subject to penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judge(s).

ARTICLE XI: STAGING

A. Restrictions

1. Non-members

Persons who are not members of the competing quartet may not appear on stage during the performance.

2. Bad Taste

Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar or otherwise not in good taste shall not be allowed. In addition to adjudication by the Performance judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Chairman of Judges per Article XIV.

B. Jurisdiction

The Performance judge(s) shall have jurisdiction over issues of staging. See the Performance category description for a discussion of unacceptable staging.

C. Staging

1. Props

If props and/or stage enhancements are to be used, they must be simple enough that at most two individuals 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.
- 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.)
- No artificially assisted methods of propelling confetti or streamers may be used. This rule is not intended to preclude the use of hand-thrown confetti or streamers.

2. Financial Liability

Competitors will be held financially liable for any damage, extra labour or equipment required for cleanup through the use of props or stage enhancements.

3. Cleanup

If there is any possibility that the stage will be left in a non-pristine condition upon a prompt exit, the performer must inform the BinH contest entry manager of all relevant details as part of the songsheet/declaration return at least 4 weeks in advance of the contest so that appropriate clean-up can be planned. Such details will be kept confidential, except in cases where the Stage or Contest Manager believes the contest timetable will be delayed. In these cases the Stage/Contest Manager may consult with the Contest Administration Category Director, who in turn may decide to escalate the issue to the hosting organisation - BABS Guild for discussion and a case-by-case ruling.

D. Penalties

Violation of this article will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judge(s).

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 to more clearly establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.

B. Penalties

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 judges.

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. No Public Announcement

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

C. Inclusion in Official Scoring Summary

Penalties and Forfeitures shall be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule violated, if appropriate.

ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF THE CONTEST

Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the Chairman of Judges is completely in charge of the operation of the contest.

Announcement of the results of the contest shall be the responsibility of the hosting organisation/contest administrator-BABS Guild.

The Chairman of Judges is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants, and Right of Appeal is available through the Stage Manager.

The Chairman of Judges alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging, and re-schedule part or all of the performance later in the contest. At his or her sole discretion, the Chairman of Judges may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest.

If the Chairman of Judges must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round and/or contest shall be re-scheduled by the BinH hosting organisations

In making these decisions, the Chairman of Judges shall consult with scoring judges as appropriate.