

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT**  
**Association of Chapters**  
**Barbershop Harmony Society**

**OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES**

**Change 6**

Revisions Approved 3/3/2017  
Effective 3/3/2017

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Change 5 Approved and Effective July 8, 2016

### **Direct Questions to:**

**The Southwestern District Representative for Contest and Judging, [dir-cj@swd.org](mailto:dir-cj@swd.org)**

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## PREAMBLE

The Rules set forth here represent a compilation of the original Rules and all amendments, changes and additions effective as of March 3, 2017. All previous editions of the Southwestern District Contest Rules are superseded. Should any conflict arise between these rules and BHS Contest and Judging rules, BHS Contest and Judging rules shall take precedence. The Southwestern District Representative for Contest and Judging (DRCJ) must approve exceptions to any rules found herein with the concurrence of the Southwestern District President.

**NOTE:** The Southwestern District official responsible for the District's Contest and Judging program is known as of this writing (2017) as the District Representative for Contest and Judging. This title may change in the future (to, for instance, District Director of Contest and Judging). Regardless of the title, the term "DRCJ" shall refer to that official in these Contest Rules.

## PART I - GENERAL

1. Quartet and Chorus Contests held in the Southwestern District shall be conducted as provided in the "Official Barbershop Harmony Society Contest Rules" (found in the Contest and Judging Handbook of the Barbershop Harmony Society), and other provisions of the Contest and Judging Handbook (including Determining Expense Allowance for Members of Judging Panels) EXCEPT as provided in these Rules or otherwise modified by the Southwestern District Board of Directors and House of Delegates.
2. All Quartet and Chorus Contests in the Southwestern District shall be held during the Spring or Fall District Conventions.
3. All contestants, including associate directors, in any District or Division Contest, must have purchased a full registration package for that Convention.
4. The DRCJ is responsible for the judging program of the District and for the conduct of all contests. As such, the DRCJ shall work closely with the District Director of Events (DE), the Convention Chairman, the District Board of Directors, and the Contest Administrator of each judging panel.
6. The DE shall coordinate all conventions held within the District in accordance with the SWD Convention Manual
7. Entering the contest:
  - a. Eligible quartets and choruses enter the District and Division contests by completing and submitting the on-line CJ-20 entry form located on the Society's members only section of the website not later than midnight 30 days prior to the start of the Contests.

- b. Late Entries: Those not submitting the entry form as described above will not be eligible to enter the contest. The DRCJ may, at his discretion, make an exception due to extenuating circumstances.
8. Draws for orders of appearance: The DRCJ shall draw the order of appearance, by lot or other method approved by District Board of Directors, for contestants in all contests. The draw for a Finals round may, at the discretion of the DRCJ, be “live” (from the hat) or may be taken from the computer program used by the Contest Administrator.
- a. The draw for orders of appearance shall be made by the DRCJ not later than 25 days prior to the contest.
  - b. For chorus contests, the host Chapter may choose to sing first or last or be included in the draw. DRCJ will adjust the draw for any such request. All other choruses in the contest will be drawn either by Plateau level or by the number of riser sections the chorus requests.
    - i. If by Plateau, all Plateau A choruses will be drawn first, then Plateau AA, then Plateau AAA
    - ii. If by number of riser sections, the draw will be by the choruses requesting the fewest number of sections and proceed to the choruses requesting the greatest number of sections.
  - c. The official draw may be modified by the DRCJ in order to separate quartets and choruses which have members in common or for any other reason deemed necessary by the DRCJ.
9. The announcement of contest winners will be made by a person named by the DRCJ in consultation with the District President. Should there be a lack of consensus, the decision of the DRCJ, or in his absence the Contest Administrator, will prevail. (The intent is that a person who will bring excitement and the proper sense of reward to the occasion be selected to make the announcements. It may properly be a District official, the Master of Ceremonies, or a member of the judging panel.)
10. Quartets and choruses may enter any contest (except the International Preliminary Quartet or International Preliminary Chorus Contests or Fall District Chorus contest) using the “Scores For Evaluation Only” option. Entering under this option means the contestant:
- a. competes before contestants not choosing this option
  - b. is scored by the judges, receives a Contestants Scoring Analysis, and receives regular Evaluation Sessions.
  - c. is not eligible for any awards and cannot qualify to proceed to a next-level contest
  - d. will not appear on the Official Scoring Summary
11. District and Division Quartet Contests shall award a Novice Quartet Champion to the highest-scoring eligible quartet (if any). A Novice Quartet is any quartet with two or more members who have never sung in a quartet contest at that or a higher level, including using the “Score For Evaluation Only” option. This means:

- a. singing in an International Preliminary Quartet Contest is considered, for Novice Quartet eligibility purposes, to have sung at both Division and District levels
- b. singing in a contest "Score For Evaluation Only" is considered to have sung in that level's quartet contest
- c. singing in a District Quartet Contest, without having first sung in a Division Quartet Contest (as a substitute, for instance), is considered to have sung at both Division and District levels

12. The DRCJ shall post these Rules on the SWD Website and/or the Southwestern District C&J Home Page with links from one to the other. Revisions to these Rules shall be annotated in the current Official District Publication.

## **PART II - DISTRICT CONTESTS**

### **II.A. GENERAL**

1. The District shall hold a Spring and Fall Convention.
  - a. The Spring Convention shall be held, on or about the first weekend in May each year and shall include, but is not limited to the following contests:
    - i. International Quartet Preliminary Contest
    - ii. District Youth Quartet Champion Contest
    - iii. Seniors International Quartet Preliminary Contest (effective May 5, 2017)
    - iv. District Seniors Quartet Contest (effective May 5, 2017)
    - v. Division Novice Quartet Contests (effective May 5, 2017)
    - vi. Mixed Quartet Contest (held at least Bi-annually)
    - vii. District Chorus Qualifier, 4 highest scoring Choruses receive an invite to Fall District Chorus contest
    - viii. District Small Chorus Champion
    - ix. Chorus Show Package, 12 minute time limit, audience favorite award
  - b. The Fall Convention shall be held, on or about the first weekend in October each year and shall include, but is not limited to the following contests:
    - i. District Quartet Contest
    - ii. District Novice Quartet Contest
    - iii. Division Quartet Contests
    - iv. International Chorus Preliminary Contest
    - v. District Chorus Contest, limited to 12 choruses
    - vi. District Plateau A, AA and AAA contests
    - vii. District Most Improved Chorus
    - viii. Division Chorus contests
    - ix. Division Most Improved Chorus contests

2. The size of the Official Panel of Judges for all District Quartet and Chorus Contests shall be determined by the DRCJ each year. The panels will typically be either a double panel (two judges per category) or a triple panel (three per category). The DRCJ shall base his decision

on history and expectations of the number of contest entries. The International Preliminary Quartet and the International Preliminary Chorus Contests must have a minimum of a double panel. The Society Contest and Judging Committee (SCJC) shall appoint the panel from available, qualified personnel.

3. A District Contest recording may be produced if approved by the District Board of Directors.
  - a. Quartets and choruses must provide the District with the song information required by the CJ-20 entry form for each song performed in the contest.
  - b. All contestants agree by submitting the CJ-20 form that songs sung in the District Contest may be used on the District recording.
  - c. Written evidence that royalties are being paid by the person or firm handling the project is required.
4. A District Quartet Champion or District Senior Quartet Champion shall be ineligible to compete for a second Championship in their respective contests. This rule does not prohibit organization and entry of a new quartet of not more than two members of the same Quartet, provided entry is under a different quartet name.
5. International champion choruses are not eligible to compete for the District Chorus championships to be awarded for the two years following the year in which the chorus won the international championship.
6. Quartet and Chorus Evaluation and Coaching sessions shall be held as specified by the DRCJ and/or CA. Every possible effort will be made to accommodate competitors sharing members.

## II.B. QUARTET CONTESTS

1. The District Quartet Contest shall be held during the Fall Convention and shall be open to all quartets; provided each quartet competing in a District Quartet Contest is registered with the Society Office and all members are current dues paying members of the BHS.
2. No quartet may compete in more than one District Contest each year and may not compete in a District Contest other than the one to which at least one of its members are assigned. (See Article 1, "Official BHS Quartet Contest Rules" for eligibility when members belong to Chapters in more than one District.)
3. The District Quartet Contest shall consist of a Semi-Finals and a Finals session. The Finals session shall consist of the highest scoring quartets entered in the District Quartet contest from the Semi-Finals session and shall not exceed ten (10) SWD quartets in number.
4. Champions and awards:
  - a. The highest-scoring quartet in the District Quartet Contest shall be designated the Southwestern District Quartet Champion. The Champion will receive individual awards and custody for one year of a traveling trophy.

- b. The highest-scoring quartet with at least two members who have never competed in a District Quartet Contest (see also I.11. above) shall be designated District Novice Quartet Champion.

## II.C. CHORUS CONTESTS

1. The District Chorus Contest shall be held during the Fall Convention and shall be limited to 12 choruses, except as described in 5.d. The 8 highest scoring choruses from the previous Fall District Chorus Contest will receive an automatic invitation. All other choruses will compete during the Spring Convention with the 4 highest scoring choruses receiving the remaining invitations.
2. District Chorus Plateau's shall be determined as follows:
  - a. Each chorus is assigned to a "Plateau" based on Chapter membership:
    - Plateau A - 39 or fewer members
    - Plateau AA - 40 through 74 members
    - Plateau AAA - 75 or more members
  - b. In assigning a Chapter to a Plateau, the DRCJ shall use the Chapter membership taken from the Monthly Membership Report issued by the Society Office on the preceding June 30 for District and Division Contests.
3. The District's International Preliminary Chorus Contest shall run concurrent with the Fall District Chorus Contest. It will select the District's representative and possible wild cards to the next International Chorus Contest. It is open to any chorus who desires to compete in this contest. By entering this contest, if you have not received an invitation to the Fall District Chorus contest, you will not be permitted to enter that contest.
4. The Spring Chorus Contest shall consist of concurrently running contests to determine at least
  - i) the remaining 4 invitees to the Fall District Contest, ii) the District Audience Favorite chorus, iii) District Small Chorus contest
    - a. Choruses may enter any combination of these contests and will do so using the Society CJ-20 form found in the member's only section of the website. This form must be completed and submitted not later than 30 days prior to the contest.
    - b. Choruses seeking one of the 4 remaining invitations to the Fall District contest or entering the District Small Chorus contest must be part of a Chartered Chapter of the Southwestern District and must perform 2 contestable Barbershop arrangements.
    - c. The 4 highest scoring choruses competing in the Spring Chorus qualifying contest will be invited to the Fall District Chorus Contest.
    - d. Choruses desiring to enter the District Small Chorus contest shall have no more than 22 members on stage, less director. Any chorus who has qualified to compete in the International Chorus contest in July of the same year as the spring contest is not eligible. The winner will be the highest scoring, eligible chorus. Winners must layout one year before competing again for the small chorus championship (this does not preclude the past champion from entering the other chorus contests). Small chorus size

may be adjusted annually by the DRCJ on January 1, based on growth of District chapters.

- e. The audience favorite chorus will be determined by audience vote for a performance package lasting not more than 12 minutes. This performance package may include any songs of the competing choruses choosing provided they are in good taste. Audience vote will be tallied via texting.
  - i. Should a competing choruses exceed the allowable 12 minutes, a penalty of:
    - 2% of the audience vote for exceeding the time limit up to and including one (1) minute.
    - 5% of the audience vote for exceeding the time limit up to and including two (2) minutes.
    - 10% of the audience vote for exceeding the time limit up to and including three (3) minutes.
    - Forfeit of the opportunity to win the Audience Favorite award for exceeding the time limit in excess of three (3) minutes.
  - a. Choruses choosing to enter the Audience Favorite, District Small chorus contests and attempting to secure invitation to the Fall Chorus contests will perform a maximum 12 minute performance package, which shall include 2 contestable Barbershop arrangements. The chorus shall advise the DRCJ the songs titles of the contestable arrangements not later than 2 weeks prior to the contest. Any time penalty will NOT affect the score of the contestable songs.

#### 5. Invitations to the Fall Chorus Contest:

- a. Should a chorus decline an invitation to the District Chorus Contest prior to the opening of registration for Spring Convention; the next highest scoring Chorus from the previous Fall District Chorus Contest will be invited.
- b. Should a chorus decline an invitation following the Spring Convention or win the BHS International Chorus Championship and therefore become ineligible to compete in the Fall District Chorus contest for the next 2 years, the next highest scoring chorus from the Spring Convention will be invited.
- c. If a chorus withdraws within 30 days of the Fall District Chorus Contest, they will not be replaced.
- d. Any chorus winning the International Chorus championship will receive an automatic invitation to the FIRST Fall District Chorus Contest in which they become eligible. In this case, the number of Choruses invited to the Fall District Chorus Contest will be increased to a total of 13 for that year.

#### 6. Champions and awards:

- a. The highest-scoring chorus in the District Chorus Contest shall be designated the Southwestern District Chorus Champion
- b. The highest scoring chorus entered in the International preliminary chorus contest shall represent the District in the next International Chorus Contest.
- c. The highest-scoring chorus in the District Small Chorus Contest shall be designated the Southwestern District Small Chorus Champion



- d. The chorus improving the most from the preceding year's District Chorus Contest, based on the society formula used by the BHS contest scoring program and run by the Contest Administrator, shall be designated the Southwestern District Most Improved Chorus.
- e. The highest scoring chorus in each Plateau shall be designated the champion of that Plateau.

## **II.D. DISTRICT YOUTH QUARTET CHAMPION CONTEST**

1. Youth Quartets desiring to enter the District Youth Quartet Contest, age eligibility as defined by BHS Youth Barbershop Contest Rules (<http://www.barbershop.org/competitions/youth-barbershop-quartet-competition/>), must enter the contest through contest manager or directly with the District Representative for Contest and Judging.
2. Members of Youth Quartets do not need to be members of the Society nor of the SWD.
3. Members of competing Youth Quartets, as defined by the Barbershop Harmony Society, are provided a complimentary SWD Spring Convention registration provided they are competing **only** in the District Youth Quartet Contest.
4. Members of Youth Quartets competing in the District Youth Quartet Contest, for novice quartet purposes, will be considered to have competed in an International qualifying round and are no longer individually eligible for Division or District novice quartet awards.
5. Champions and awards:
  - a. The highest Scoring Youth Quartet, representing the SWD, shall be designated the District Youth Quartet Champion

## **II.E. SENIORS QUARTET CONTESTS**

1. A District Seniors Quartet Contest shall be held during the Spring Convention; it will be held simultaneously with the Semi-Finals of the International Preliminary Quartet Contest. This shall be a single round contest.
2. The International Preliminary Seniors Quartet Contest, which selects the District Representative to the International Seniors Quartet Contest held at the next Society Mid-Winter Convention, shall run concurrent with the District Seniors Quartet Contest.
3. A Southwestern District Seniors Quartet is a Seniors Quartet which has chosen the Southwestern District as its home District in accordance with Article I.A. of the BHS Contest Rules (i.e., at least one member of the quartet is a member of a Chartered Chapter of the Southwestern District); and
  - a. all members of which are at least 55 years of age; and

- b. the cumulative age of the quartet members is least 240 years (average age of 60). These ages must be attained by the time of the Society Seniors Quartet Contest at the following Society Mid-Winter Convention.
  - c. The quartet must be registered with the Society. Details may be obtained from the Quartet Registry at the Society Office.
4. Entry shall completed using the on-line Quartet Entry Form (CJ-20) located on the Society's members only section of the website. The on-line form must be submitted to the DRCJ not later than midnight 30 days prior to the contest date.
  5. The draw for the order of appearance of the Spring District Seniors Quartet Contest will be made not later than 25 days prior to the contest.
  6. A Seniors Quartet may also enter the Fall District Quartet Contest as provided for in II.B. of these District Contest Rules.
  7. Champions and Awards
    - a. The highest-scoring quartet entered in the International Seniors Preliminary contest will be District representative to the International Seniors Quartet Contest at the next Mid-Winter Convention.
    - b. The highest scoring quartet that has entered the District Seniors Quartet Contest will be named District Senior Quartet Champion (previous Champions are not eligible). The Champion will receive individual awards and custody for one year of a traveling trophy.

## **II.F. MIXED QUARTET CONTESTS**

1. The Southwestern District sponsors a bi-annual qualifying contest for any mixed quartet who desires to receive scores, which they may forward to BinG! to be considered as a potential wild card qualifying score for the International Mixed Quartet Contest. The Southwestern District reserves the right to limit the number of contestants due to schedules and available resources to support the contest. Quartets will be entered in the contest on a first come, first served basis.
2. A minimum single panel will adjudicate the contest.
3. Contests shall be held during the Spring Convention the year prior to the BinG! International Mixed Quartet Contest.
4. Any Competing quartet must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Quartets must be composed of one, two or three members of one gender (M/F) and at least one member of the opposite gender (e.g., MMMF, MMFF or MFFF).
  - b. Any vocal configuration (T, L, Br, Bs) is acceptable.

- c. This event is open to ALL singers, regardless of BHS, SAI or HI affiliation. While this event is open to ALL singers, regardless of affiliation with BHS, SAI and/or HI, each member is required to purchase an all-events registration to the Spring Convention in which the contest is held.
- d. Quartets are not expected to be registered with BHS
- e. Each contestant is required to perform 2 songs
- f. All songs performed in the contest must be contestable and arranged in the barbershop style, according to BHS rules and MUS/PRE/SNG category descriptions. The following is the link to the C&J Handbook  
<http://www.barbershop.org/files/documents/contestandjudging/C&J%20Handbook.pdf>
- g. Quartets must provide the District with the correct title, composer, arranger, publishing company, and year of copyright (if applicable) of all songs sung in the Mixed Quartet Contest.
- h. All contestants are required to observe copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements.
- i. Other than a pitch pipe (manual or electronic) used for brief pitch taking prior to beginning a song, no musical instruments or instrumental accompaniment is permitted.
- j. All competing mixed quartets will have the opportunity to participate in evaluation sessions with the judges.

## **PART III - DIVISION CONTESTS**

### **III.A. GENERAL**

1. Division Contests shall be held during the first round of the Fall District contests, except the Division Novice Quartet contests which are held at the Spring District contest.
2. The size of the Official Panel of Judges for Division Quartet and Chorus Contests shall be the same as the corresponding District contest and is determined by the DRCJ each year.
3. The draw for order of appearance for Division contests shall be made by the DRCJ as part of the first round draw for the corresponding District contest.
4. Late entries shall be handled the same as late entries to the Fall District contest.

### **III.B. DIVISION QUARTET CONTESTS**

1. Each Division shall hold a Quartet Contest, held in conjunction with the Fall District Quartet Contest, to select the Division Quartet Champion.
2. Each Division Shall hold a Novice Quartet Contest, held in conjunction with the Spring District Quartet Contest, to select the Division Novice Quartet Champion.

3. Each quartet competing in a Division Quartet Contest must be registered with the Society Office.
  - a. No quartet may compete in more than one Division Contest each year.
  - b. Quartets may compete in a Division Contest provided at least one member of the quartet is a member of a Chartered chapter in the selected Division.
  - c. Quartets may not compete “out of Division”
4. Champions and Awards
  - d. The highest-scoring quartet shall be designated the Division Quartet Champion.
  - e. The highest-scoring quartet with at least two members who have never competed in a Division Quartet Contest (see also I.11. above) shall be designated Division Novice Quartet Champion.

### **III.C. DIVISION CHORUS CONTESTS**

1. Each Division shall hold a Chorus Contest, held in conjunction with the Fall District Chorus contest, to select the Division Chorus Champion.
2. No chorus may compete in a Division Contest other than the one to which its Chapter is assigned.
3. The Division Chorus Contest shall consist only of a Finals session.
4. Champions and awards:
  - a. The highest-scoring chorus in a Division Chorus Contest shall be designated the Division Chorus Champion.
  - b. The chorus improving the most from the preceding year’s Division Chorus Contest, based on the Society formula used by BHS contest scoring program and run by the Contest Administrator, shall be designated the Division Most Improved Chorus.