



# THE IABS CONTEST RULES

## **Article 1 Scope**

- (a) These rules shall apply to all IABS contests.
- (b) In general these rules apply to both quartet and chorus contests, the word 'contestant' being used to denote either a quartet or chorus. Where the word 'quartet' or 'chorus' is used, that rule shall be specific to that type of contest. Such rules are identified by the letter **Q** or **C**, as appropriate.
- (c) *Paragraphs in italics are for guidance of contestants and do not form part of the Contest Rules.*

## **Article 2 National and International Contests**

The national Quartet and Chorus Contests shall be held each year in conjunction with the IABS Annual Convention and shall be under the general supervision of the IABS Executive Management Committee, hereinafter called "IABS-EMC".

- (a) Preliminary Contest may be held as deemed necessary and specified by the IABS-EMC
- (b) At the IABS Annual Convention, quartets shall be judged in a finals contest, which will be known as the IABS Quartet Finals Contest. At such a contest there may be two national subcategories, comprising of National Male Quartets (from within IABS) and National Female Quartets (from within IABS). **Q**
- (c) And two International subcategories comprising International Male Quartets (from any designated area and may include IABS male "Gold medal" quartets), International Female Quartets (from any designated area and may include IABS female "Gold medal" quartets). **Q**
- (d) At the end of the Quartet Finals Contest, the placing of quartets shall be computed by the scores obtained in the Contest. Where a semifinal of contests has occurred these scores will be added to the final performances and combined total scores shall be used in determining the outcome of the contest. Contestants places first, second and third within each subcategory shall be designated Medallists. The First placed quartet in each group shall be recognised as the Champions of that subcategory in that years' Contest. **Q**
- (e) At the IABS Annual Convention, Choruses shall be judged in a contest, which will be known as the IABS Chorus Finals Contest. At such a contest there may be two

national subcategories, comprising of National Male Chorus (from within IABS) and National Female Chorus (from within IABS) **C**

- (f) And two International subcategories comprising International Male Choruses (from any designated area and may include IABS male choruses) and International Female Choruses (from any designated area and to include IABS female choruses). **C**
- (g) At the end of the Chorus Contest, the placing of Choruses shall be computed by the scores obtained in the Contest. Contestants placed first, second and third within each subcategory shall be designated Medallists. The First placed Chorus in each group shall be recognised as the Champions of that subcategory in that years' Contest. **C**

### **Article 3 Eligibility**

- (a) Everyone on stage shall be a member of IABS – in good standing. The only exceptions shall be contestants identified from designated and accepted areas competing in the International subcategories. (See article 2c and 2f as above)
- (b) All national quartets shall be registered with IABS and comply with Registration Rules. **Q**
- (c) All International quartets shall be registered with IABS and comply with Registration Rules. **Q**
- (d) A novice quartet shall have never previously competed in an IABS contest with their present personnel. **Q**
- (e) Professional quartets may not enter. **Q**
- (f) Each chorus shall consist of certified members of a fully paid up IABS member group, i.e. all singers on stage including Directors. *Where a male Chorus is directed by a female chorus director – she shall not be heard or seen to be heard within the contest presentation. Where a female Chorus is directed by a male chorus director – he shall not be heard or seen to be heard within the contest presentation.* **C**
- (g) No-one is allowed on the active stage during a contest performance who is not a member of the competing quartet of chorus.
- (h) Each IABS group may enter only one chorus within a given subcategory of contest (see article 2b and 2e) **C**
- (i) Two or more IABS member groups shall not combine to form one competing chorus in the National Contest. **C**
- (j) An individual member shall be permitted to compete with more than one club provided he was a member of each for 6 months. **C**
- (k) No chorus shall be more than 25% of its members competing with another chorus in the National Contest. **C**
- (l) Members of any group may combine to form another chorus but may NOT compete in the National Contest. **C**
- (m) Violation of any of the eligibility articles (articles 3 (a) to 3 (l)) will be penalised under Article 11. **C**

#### **Article 4 Entry to Contest and Provision of Contest Rules**

- (a) Entry shall be made on the appropriated form, which is sent to all registered eligible quartets and IABS Choruses. The completed form shall be sent to the IABS-EMC or designated recipient to arrive not later that the published closing date.
- (b) Late entry may be accepted at the discretion of the IABS-EMC and shall sing in a position to be determined by them in due consultation with the official panel of judges appointed for that contest.
- (c) Entry forms shall identify the current contest rules, copies of which can be obtained from the IABS-EMC or their designated representative.

#### **Article 5 Order of Appearance on Stage**

- (a) Contestants shall sing in the order in which their names are drawn by the IABS-EMC or their appointee, except as allowed in articles 4(b) and 6.
- (b) No contestant shall appear in a show on the contest stage less than 72 hours before any competition.
- (c) Violation of Articles 5(a) or 5(b) will be penalised under Article 11.

#### **Article 6 Penalties for Tardiness**

Any contestant failing to perform in the assigned order of appearance shall, unless there are exceptional circumstances, be penalised under Article 12. The IABS-EMC shall permit such a contestant to appear where minimum inconvenience is caused to other contestants. The decision of the IABS-EMC is final.

#### **Article 7 Contest Material**

- (a) Songs or medleys in poor taste are inappropriate for Barbershop contests.
- (b) All songs must be arranged in the Barbershop style. *Contestants are referred to the SPEBSQSA Inc. Category Descriptions or to any qualified member of the Music category from the SPEBSQSA Inc. for a detailed explanation of the Barbershop style and suitability of a song. These documents and contacts are available at the SPEBSQSA Inc. Website, the reader is encouraged to thoroughly research any queries in this area. The readers' attention is drawn to a suitable alternative document from the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) and published on their Website.*
- (c) Songs used in contests should be sung in the English language except for the occasional word or phase which may occur naturally as part of the song
- (d) Disregard for Articles 7(a), (b) of (c) will result in points forfeiture by any or all judges.

#### **Article 8 Number of Songs**

- (a) At each stage of the contest, including the Preliminary Contest, contestants shall sing two songs, either or both of which may be a medley.
- (b) No song (including constituent songs of a medley) may be sung more than once, by any individual contestant. *This rule is not intended to bar the use of musical quotes. Material sung at a Preliminary Contest may be repeated at a later stage.*

**C**

- (c)

Taking the Semi-Final and Final Contests as a whole, no song (including constituent songs of a medley) may be sung more than once, by any individual contestant. *This rule is not intended to bar the use of musical quotes. Material sung at a Preliminary Contest may be repeated at a later stage.* **Q**

- (d) The IABS-EMC (or their appointed representative) will penalise any violation of Article 8(a), (b) or (c) under Article 11. The authority and decision to penalise shall reside with the official panel once a contest has commenced.

### **Article 9 Scoring Categories**

Judging of contestants' performance will be carried out in three categories: Music, Presentation and Singing. Each category may use up to a maximum of 100 points per song per judge. *For the criteria being judged, refer to the current SPEBSQSA Inc. – Category Descriptions. The readers' attention is drawn to a suitable alternative document from the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) and published on their Website.*

### **Article 10 Sound Equipment and Stage Effects**

- (a) Contestants may not use their own electronic amplification or mains operated lighting equipment.
- (b) Contestants may use props, but they should be limited to those which may be taken on and off stage by one person. The Presentation Category judge(s) will be responsible for applying penalties up to and including forfeiture for violation of this rule.
- (c) Contestants should leave the stage in the same good condition as they would wish to find it for their own performance and props should be chosen accordingly. Anything that can be quickly cleared by a stage-hand is acceptable. Contestants may check out props with the IABS-EMC, if required.
- (d) Violation of Article 10(a) or (c) will be penalised under Article 11

### **Article 11 Disqualification**

The IABS-EMC (or their appointed representatives) shall be responsible for penalising violations of Articles 3, 5, 8, 10(a) and 10(c). The penalty is disqualification and such contestants shall receive no score and shall not appear on the official scoring summary, except by way of a note using the wording: 'Contestant disqualified: Violation of Article...'

### **Article 12 Fixed Penalties**

The penalty will be 15 points on a single panel of judges, 30 points on a double panel, 45 points on a triple panel etc. The IABS-EMC (or their designated representatives) shall have the power to waive the penalty where the situation that has arisen is clearly outside the control of the contestant.

### **Article 13 Verbal Comment**

Contestants shall not use verbal comment to introduce their songs, or tell jokes, stories, etc. Violation of this rule may result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Presentation judge(s). However, this rule is not intended to penalise the following: a very quiet "thank you" during the applause; and involuntary few words within a chorus or quartet; a few words of command, for example, which form an artistic part of the song.

### **Article 14 Disturbance during Contests**

Should any event occur which, in the opinion of the IABS-EMC (or its representative), adversely affects the contestant, such contestants shall be offered the chance to sing again after the last contestant has finished and at least fifteen minutes after the disturbed contestant has left the stage. The contestant shall be given a reasonable period of time to make a decision. If the contestant accepts the offer, the scores from the first performance will be discarded and the contestant will be judged on the second performance only.

### **Article 15 Ranking of Contestants**

Contestants shall be ranked in accordance with the highest total score of points awarded by the judges in all categories in ascending order. If two or more contestants are awarded the same total score, including all previous rounds except Preliminary Contests, ties will only be broken for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in Finals. The method used for breaking ties will be:

- 1 The highest total score awarded by the Singing judges will be ranked as the "Tie-break" and that contestant will be ranked above the other(s) in the tie.
- 2 If a tie still exists, the highest total score awarded by the Music judges will be ranked as the "Tie-break" and that contestant will be ranked above the other(s) in the tie
- 3 If the tie is still not broken, the following shall apply: The "Tie-break" shall be the highest total score at the Preliminary contest. If the tie continues unbroken, the Singing score at the Preliminary contest shall be the "Tie-break" and if still not broken the Presentation score at the Preliminary contest shall be used.

Total scores for 4<sup>th</sup> place and below will be ranked as equal placing. At Preliminary contests, ties will be ranked as equal placing and if there is a tie at the cut-off for the Semi-finals or Finals contest, both tied contestants will go through.

### **Article 16 Publication of Results**

At all IABS contests, results shall be made known by the IABS-EMC for each stage, as follows:

- (a) An Official Scoring Summary shall be displayed at the contest site, showing the score per category and per song; details of any penalties or disqualification, including the Article Number violated; details of any ties; and the names of the official Judging Panel.
- (b) The scores obtained by the Finalists quartets in the Semi-Finals (when held) shall be held over for publication after the Final stage. **Q**
- (c) There shall be no public announcement of penalties and disqualifications.
- (d) Following the public announcement and publication of results to the satisfaction of the IABS-EMC, there can be no change in the rankings or scores.

### **Article 17 Local Rules addendum**

Whilst all possible steps shall be taken to accommodate the provisions of these rules for contest within IABS, particular locations may necessitate "local rules" to be applied. IABS – EMC or its appointed representative shall have the authority to act in these circumstances and the decision on such matters shall be final.