

OFFICIAL LABBS CONTEST RULES

ADOPTED JANUARY 1994
(REVISED SEPTEMBER 2008)

FOREWORD

These rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests. In these rules, the definition of the Preliminary Round Competition is the contest at which the contestants for the Chorus Finals and Quartet Semi-Finals are selected. In matters not specifically covered by these rules, the Education & Judging Committee may exercise reasonable latitude and prerogative provided that the established ethics and policies of LABBS are closely observed.

ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

A. Quartets

1. Each member shall be a fully paid up FULL member of LABBS. A competing quartet may contain no more than two Club at Large members.
2. The quartet name and names of members of the quartet shall be registered with the LABBS Quartet Registrar and such registration must include the same personnel that enter the contest.
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. Right of appeal in the matter shall be to the Education & Judging Committee, whose decision shall be final.
4. Previous Gold Medallist quartets shall be eligible to compete again with the

exception of the year following their gold medal.

5. No person shall sing in more than one competing quartet in the same contest.
6. A Novice quartet is considered to be one which has never previously competed and shall include no medallists. No novice quartet may include more than two members who have previously competed in a quartet contest.
7. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

B. Choruses

1. Member Clubs of the Association may enter only one Chorus.
2. Choruses shall ensure that all their members are fully paid up FULL members of LABBS.
3. Choruses on stage shall consist of no less than nine singing members, all of whom must be female.
4. The Champion Chorus for any given year shall not be eligible to enter the contest in the following year.
5. A Novice Chorus is considered to be a chorus which has never previously competed in a LABBS Contest.
6. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

1. Contest entry forms shall be sent to every member club at least 45 days prior to the contest date.
2. Completed entries for the contest and information regarding song titles must be received by the Education & Judging Committee's nominated representative by the date specified.
3. The contestant reserves the right to alter songs up until two hours prior to the start of each relevant contest, having informed the Chairman of Judges accordingly.

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. She adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. 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. She adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

B. Presentation

The Presentation judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life - that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. She

responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the presentation, but she principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. She adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Presentation 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 a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, ring or expansion of sound throughout the performance. When artistry is present, these elements will be natural, unmanufactured and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to communicate fully the theme of the song.

ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATORS

A. Contest judges and administrators shall be registered by the Education & Judging Committee through the Category Directors, in their respective categories in accordance with their qualifications to judge one of the three scoring categories or to serve in the Contest Administration category. It is the duty of the Education & Judging Committee, to provide an official register of registered and candidate judges and administrators.

B. The Contest Administrators and scoring judges for Preliminary Round, Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall be appointed from the Official Register of Registered Judges and Administrators by the Education & Judging Committee

through the respective Category Directors. The determination of the number of Judges/Administrators for a given contest shall be made by the Education & Judging Committee.

C. The E & J Committee reserves the right to appoint registered judges from other associations if required.

D. An expense allowance for each judge and administrator shall be determined by the Education & Judging Committee on an annual basis.

ARTICLE V: TYPES OF CONTESTS

A. All contests

1. Contestants shall be judged on two different songs in one appearance.

2. A Music judge shall recommend forfeiture to the Chairman of Judges if a contestant repeats more than two phrases from one of its songs in another song. If there are two or more Music judges, the decision to forfeit shall be unanimous. The Chairman of Judges shall record as zero the contestant's entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s). When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.

B. Preliminary Round Contest

1. The Education & Judging Committee shall determine whether or not a Preliminary round contest shall be held.

2. The number of contestants going forward from a Preliminary round contest to the next round shall be determined by the Education & Judging Committee.

C. Semi-Final and Final Round Contest

1. The Quartet Semi-Final and Final Round and the Chorus Final Round contests shall be held in conjunction with the LABBS Annual Convention and shall be under the general supervision of the Education & Judging Committee.

2. Quartets shall prepare a total of four different songs for the Semi-Final and Final round contests.

3. At least six highest ranking Quartets from the Semi-Final round shall compete in the Final round. Each quartet shall be judged on two more songs.

4. After the Final round, ranking of quartets shall be computed from the combined scores obtained in the semi-final and final round. The winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places shall be designated Gold, Silver and Bronze Medallists respectively.

5. The winner of the Chorus contest shall be designated Champion Chorus.

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.

B. Quartet Semi-Final Round Contest

An official scoring summary as detailed above shall be published except that it shall not contain information regarding qualifiers for the final round contest.

**ARTICLE VII:
RANKING OF CONTESTANTS**

Contestants shall be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges. The judges shall report their scores immediately following each contestant's performance. 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. 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.

**ARTICLE VIII:
ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

A. Contestants shall sing in the order in which their names are drawn by lot or as determined by the Education & Judging Committee.

B. 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 Chairman of Judges.

C. 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. 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. All

songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style, which is an unaccompanied vocal style of music. 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. In chorus contests, selected use of a soloist or small singing unit, such as duet or trio, is not permitted except for limited use of a select quartet, which is acceptable as long as it is brief.

C. Contestants shall comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging and learning of songs for contest performance.

D. Violation of this article will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by one or more judges, or, in the case of copyright law violations, post-contest action deemed appropriate by the Education & Judging Committee.

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

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

B. Contestants shall not use their own electronic amplification. Violation of this

rule may result in forfeiture by the Presentation judge(s)

ARTICLE XI: STAGING

A. Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance unless an emergency arises or an emergency announcement needs to be made.

B. Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar or otherwise not in good taste shall not be allowed. Use of blackface shall result in forfeiture.

C. The Presentation judge(s) shall have jurisdiction over issues of staging. See the Presentation category description (Presentation differences between Quartet & Chorus).

D. Violation of this article may result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by one or more judges.

ARTICLE XII: VERBAL COMMENT

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, assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme. Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be penalized by the Presentation judge(s) up to and including forfeiture.

ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of Articles I.A and I.B shall result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. There shall be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture. Forfeitures shall be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule violated, if appropriate.

Forfeiture results when one or more elements of the performance violate the contest rules and/or render the performance so unsuitable to the barbershop style that drastic action is required. If some action, but not drastic action, is appropriate, the judge may apply a smaller penalty.

Any forfeiture by a Music or Singing judge would be as a result of a violation of ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, though she is only responsible for those parts of ARTICLE IX discussed below.

A forfeiture by a Presentation judge could be as a result of a violation of ARTICLES X, XI or XII of the contest rules, for which she is solely responsible, or a violation of ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, though she is only responsible for those parts of ARTICLE IX discussed below.

As specified in ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, "All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style." All judges are responsible for adjudicating the first paragraph of the definition of the barbershop style, given in The Judging System, A.1 Technical (Structural) Aspects

ARTICLE IX provides for "penalties up to and including forfeiture." Forfeiture or

other penalty may be appropriate as a result of one or more of the following:

- a. The use of instrumental accompaniment. as indicated in ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, instrumental accompaniment will result in automatic forfeiture.
- b. The lack of consonant four-part chords.
- c. The lack of a predominantly homophonic texture. This restriction is not meant to prohibit the use of a patter chorus or other relatively short segment of the song that is not homophonic.
- d. Excessive use of tenor melody. The definition clearly restricts the use of tenor melody.
- e. A performance in which the melody is not primarily sung by the lead.
- f. Excessive use of passages sung by fewer than four voice parts.

As specified in ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, songs must be sung “without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion.” An instrumental interlude between the two songs of a contest performance may result in forfeiture of both songs.

All judges adjudicate the second paragraph of ARTICLE IX of the contest rules, which states that “In chorus contests, selected use of a soloist or small singing unit, such as duet or trio, is not permitted except for limited use of a select quartet, which is acceptable as long as it is brief.”

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 Education & Judging Committee.

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 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 Chairman of Judges in conjunction with the Education & Judging Committee.

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