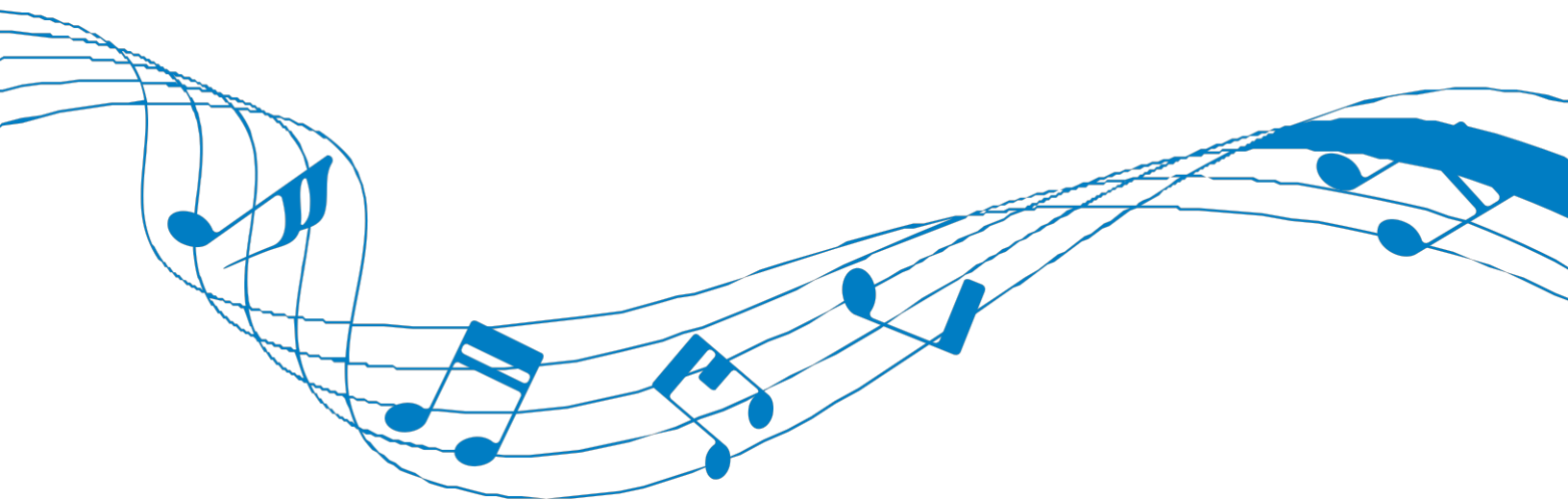


2018 Regional Competitions

Chorus Competitor Information



2018 Regional Competitions

This e-packet includes the following items to assist as you finalize your regional competition preparations.

- Important Documents overview
- Rules for Entering the Competition
- Overview of Competition Options
- Overview of Competition Specifics
- Details on Qualifying for International Competition
- Extras

Remember, we are here to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you have questions throughout the regional competition season, please feel free to contact [Competition Services](#) at International headquarters.

Best wishes for a successful competition!

RESOURCES ON YOUR WEB PAGE

The following items are currently posted to and only available through your [Regional Chorus Competitor](#) web page:

- **Chorus Registration**
- **Chorus Open Division Cue Sheet**
- **List of Competing Members Verification Form**
- **Regional Competition Eligibility Requirements**
- **Evaluating Your Contest Performance**
- **Performance Level Guidelines**
- **Copyright Matters, Q & A**
- **Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division Video Recording**
- **Regional Judging Panel**
- **2018 Regional Dates and Deadlines**
- **2018 Regional Competition Schedule (dates and locations)**
- **Competition Handbook**
- **Judging Category Description Book**

PACKET INFORMATION

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[Competition Weekend: pg 8](#)

[Qualifying for International Competition: pg 9](#)

[Open Division Extras: pg 10](#)

NOTES OF INTEREST

- Open Division competitors are placed in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.
- Competitors disqualified from any competition, in any division, **will receive a scoresheet.** However, the level scores will be torn off.
- Performance time for International Division, (including Evaluation Only) is not to exceed seven minutes, while performance time for Open Division is not to exceed 10 minutes.
- The International Board of Directors continues to reaffirm the policy requiring that only copyright music is sung at the regional competition. By signing the entry form, choruses warrant they have obtained appropriate clearance permission for the arrangements they plan to sing.
- For a complete explanation of the requirements and category weights of each of the four judging categories, along with the Open Division elements, refer to the Judging Category Description Book.
- If you have any questions specific to your **regional convention**, please contact your events coordinator (EVC) or chair of regional convention (CRC).
- If you have questions regarding the **competition**, please feel free to contact Competition Services at international headquarters.

CONTACTING SWEET ADELINES

Jen Haggard, Director, Events and Competition Services, ext. 138

Natalie Bennett, Sr. Coordinator, Events and Competition Services, ext. 119

Kaitie Bailey, Coordinator, Events and Competition Services, ext. 124

Emily Mock, Competition Services Specialist, ext. 121

Email: competition@sweetadelines.com or call Toll Free: 800-992-7464

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- **2018 Chorus Entry Form**

Registering online is the quickest, most convenient way to register for competition. If you choose, you may email or fax your completed entry form to Sweet Adelines International. You can print a hard copy of the competition entry form from the Chorus Competitor Webpage.

- **2018 Regional Dates and Deadlines**

This chart lists important dates for your competition, including the date you can first register online, the date the order of appearance is drawn, and the date of the competition (available in region numerical and contest date order). **Please note the 60-day entry submission deadline.** Additional mailings from your region are sent closer to the competition date in regards to housing and convention registration deadlines.

- **2018 List of Competing Members Verification Form**

Two copies of this alphabetical list of each competing member (including director), their ID number and signature **MUST** be turned into the region's competition coordinator at the briefing. Please **DO NOT** send this list to international headquarters.

- **2018 Open Division Cue Sheet**

A copy of this form **MUST** be turned into the region's competition coordinator (CC) at the briefing.

- **Competition Handbook**

Sweet Adelines International's Competition Handbook explains official rules and regulations for all competitions. The handbook is also available through International Sales.

- **Regional Competition Eligibility Requirements**

Information for choruses/quartets to determine eligibility for regional competition.

- **Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording**

An informative guide on the rules for performing for Evaluation Only or Open Division by Video Recording.

- **Evaluating your Contest Performance**

An informative guide on how you and the judges evaluate your contest performance.

- **Performance Level Guidelines**

These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your scoresheet comments.

- **Entertainment Level Guidelines**

These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your Open Division scoresheet comments.

- **Copyright Matters Q & A**

Instructions addressing copyright issues; an informative guide on copyrights/arrangements of music.

ENTERING THE 2018 COMPETITION

Rules to Enter:

- A minimum of 15 members, not including the director(s), must be on stage when competing in a regional chorus competition. A chorus with fewer than 15 members on stage performs for Evaluation Only or Open Division and receives a written evaluation of their performance from each judge, provided that all other requirements for entering the regional chorus competition are met.
- In accordance with the competition procedures in the Competition Handbook, it is your region's responsibility to notify Competition Services if a member or chorus has not paid their regional assessment. Any chorus delinquent in paying its regional assessment as of 60 days prior to regional competition is not in good standing with the region and is ineligible to compete. If it is paid, Competition Services must receive notification from the region that the member or chorus is in good standing and eligible to compete.
- Refer to the Competition Handbook for a complete list of competition policies and procedures.

Chapter Membership Renewal:

- As a reminder, a chorus must have competed at least once in a regional or international competition in the preceding three years in order to renew chapter membership. This means your chorus must have competed in 2016, 2017, or 2018 in order to renew chapter membership for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Entry Fee:

- Chorus entry: \$150.00 (up to 60 days prior to competition)

Late Fee:

- Chorus late fees: \$100.00 in addition to standard registration fees (59-45 days prior to competition)
- Entries received after 45 days prior to contest are not processed

Riser Change Fee:

- Any change in your riser configuration after the initial Order of Appearance (55 days prior to competition) has been drawn results in a **\$25.00** fee.
- If a chorus changes their riser configuration after the initial Order of Appearance has been drawn, the chorus is then treated as a late entry and is placed in a second order of appearance draw to perform at the beginning of their appropriate session.

Entry Deadline:

- Entries **MUST** be received at international headquarters by the entry deadline. Refer to the 2018 Regional Dates and Deadlines to view your region's schedule.

Sending in Your Entry Form:

- Competition entries are accepted on the Sweet Adelines International website beginning December 1, 2017. *Online registration is limited to the chorus president, director, or treasurer on file at headquarters; all must be in good standing.*
- Entries may also be printed and faxed to Sweet Adelines International. Both the entry fee and completed form must be received by international headquarters no later than 60 days prior to the regional competition to avoid late fees. Allow ample time for the materials to be processed through the postal system.

- **Be sure to include your region number and chorus ID on the entry form.**
- Submitting your entry late affects your order of appearance. Entries received during the late period (59-45 days before competition) will not appear in the initial order of appearance drawing, but instead in a second drawing placing your chorus at the beginning of your chosen division of the competition.
- All faxed entry forms should be sent to 1.918.388.8083
- *Note: please do not fax an entry form that has already been processed online; this could result in duplicate charges.*

Paying for Your Entry:

- Include payment in U.S. currency only. You can by Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

Withdrawing Your Entry:

- Anyone withdrawing must submit a written notification to international headquarters via email to Competition Services.
- Competition entry fees are non-refundable.

COMPETITION OPTIONS

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

- International Division is the traditional competition option.
- Contestants in the International Division should prepare to sing two separate competition songs or medleys.
- Competing in the International Division, including Evaluation Only, meets the 3-year competition requirement for choruses.
- International Division serves as qualifier for international quartet semifinals and Harmony Classic competitions.
- Competitors have seven minutes to sing their two contest songs.
- Contestants may choose to perform for placement or evaluation within the International Division.

Performing for Evaluation Only

- The International Board of Directors provides that all choruses, current or past international champions, or current international semifinalists (placing 2-15), may perform in a regional competition for Evaluation Only or Open Division. This should be indicated on the entry form.

OPEN DIVISION

- Open Division is an evaluative competition option.
- Contestants in the Open Division should prepare to sing one competition song performed as part of the entertainment package.
- Competing in the Open Division meets the 3-year competition requirement for choruses.
- Only level scores are given.
- Level scores are posted in performance order. They are posted alongside the International Division scores.
- Competitors have 10 minutes to complete their Open Division package.
- Contestants choosing to compete in the Open Division shall present an entertainment package that includes:

- One song or medley appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines International competition
- At least one other song
- Emcee material

EVALUATION OR OPEN DIVISION BY VIDEO RECORDING

- The regional competition policies give competitors the option of evaluation through Evaluation Only or Open Division by video recording. Chorus choosing these options are required to pay the competition entry fee.
- The official panel evaluates the video recording after viewing the level performances, prior to judging the contest.
- Evaluation or Open Division by video recording **DOES NOT** fulfil the existing 3-year competition requirement for choruses.
- Refer to Section VI of the Competition Handbook for complete guidelines.

COMPETITION SPECIFICS

PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

- The competing chorus indicates on the entry form its desire to perform in the Open Division, International Division (placement), or Evaluation Only. *The full entry fee is required even when performing for Evaluation Only and Open Division.*
- Prospective choruses may only enter regional chorus competitions for Evaluation Only or Open Division.
- Choruses performing for Evaluation Only, unless serving as mic-tester or host chorus, are automatically part of the drawing for first appearance.
- Each judge writes comments on her category scoresheets and indicates a level score for each song. **No numerical score or total score is given for Evaluation Only or Open Division.**
- Level scores for Evaluation Only performances are considered confidential and are not published.
- Choruses performing in the International Division, Evaluation Only or Open Division fulfil the 3-year competition requirement.
- Only the competition assistance/host chorus has the option of performing either first or last, when performing for Evaluation Only.
- Choruses competing for Evaluation Only are **NOT** eligible for awards presented by the international organization or for regional awards determined by total score or final placement.
- Open Division competitors will be in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.
- Competitors may not change from International Division to Open Division (or vice versa) after the final order of appearance has been conducted at headquarters.

RISER CONFIGURATIONS

- Each region is given the option of using the standard riser configuration, the alternative riser configuration or both at regional competition. It is the region's decision which configuration(s) are used.
- Each region has the option to choose which riser configuration is used first.

- If two riser configurations are offered in your region, choruses are allowed to make their own decision regarding on which riser configuration they compete.
- Any change in your selection of riser configurations after the initial order of appearance has been made results in a **\$25.00** fee.

Standard Riser Configuration

- Inverted center; more appropriate for larger choruses.

Alternative Riser Configuration

- No inverted center; more appropriate for smaller choruses.

Please refer to the Guidelines for Regional Conventions for riser diagrams.

***Note: if your chorus does not designate on the registration form which riser configuration it desires, your chorus is automatically placed on the standard risers. The riser change fee will be assessed if the chorus later decides to change the riser configuration.**

MIC-TESTING

A chorus invited to mic-test may also perform for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest. Mic-testers choosing to perform for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest *must complete the entry form and pay the entry fee.*

COMPETITION WEEKEND

- The Open Division Cue Sheet (Open Division competitors only) is due to the CC at the chorus competitor briefing.
- A director or president of a competing chorus must submit two copies of the List of Competing Members form to the CC at the chorus competitor briefing.
- Names/ID numbers and signatures of all performing chorus members, including the director(s) are listed on the form in alphabetical order. The total number of performers on stage is used to determine eligibility for the Division A small chorus (15-30) and the Division AA mid-size chorus (31-60) awards.
- Should a person on the list (with the exception of the director) **not** be a member of the chorus and Sweet Adelines International, the chorus is subject to disqualification.
- The competing chorus receives the following:
 - Official tabulated results of the regional chorus competition
 - Judges' scoresheets for their performance
 - Recording of their performance
 - Evaluating Your Contest Performance
 - Performance Level Guidelines
 - Entertainment Package Guidelines
 - Panel Directory

QUALIFYING FOR INTERNATIONAL

The 2018 Regional Quartet Champions are eligible to compete in the 2019 International Chorus Competitions.

WILDCARDS

- The ten highest scoring regional second place choruses are eligible to compete at the next year's international chorus semifinals are wildcards.
- The next highest scoring regional second place chorus is invited if an eligible chorus chooses not to compete.
- Any wildcard chorus that qualifies for the international chorus semifinals by virtue of score and chooses to compete in the next year's international competition is not allowed to compete for placement at the following regional competition.
- Announcement of wildcards is made after all regional contests are complete.
- To aid in the decision-making process, please start these discussions early. If you are fortunate enough to receive a wildcard invitation, these prior discussions will help speed up the decision process.

HARMONY CLASSIC

- From the first place mid-size (Division AA) and first place small (Division A) chorus divisions, the five highest scoring choruses are invited to compete in the Harmony Classic competition at the 2019 International Convention.
- Choruses that qualify for both Harmony Classic and the international chorus semifinals are required to choose one contest in which they will compete. Choruses **MAY NOT** compete in both Harmony Classic and the international chorus semifinals in the same year.
- To aid in the decision-making process, please start discussions early. If you are fortunate enough to receive a Harmony Classic invitation, these prior discussions will help speed up the decision making process.
- The maximum number of singers for Harmony Classic competition increases to 40 singing members for Division A and 75 singing members for Division AA. *While the qualification for Harmony Classic remains at 15-30 singing members for Division A and 31-60 singing members for Division AA at the regional competition level, this is important to note should your chorus be invited to compete in Harmony Classic at the international level.*
- Refer to the Competition Handbook for additional qualifications and restrictions.

PENALTIES SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION

- Time penalty: 30 seconds over or more.
- Competition songs not sung primarily in English.
- Official song of the Corporation.
- Religious or patriotic songs. (Does not apply to non-competition songs.)
- Performance included spoken material and/or noise making devices. (Does not apply to non-competition songs)
- Throwing object(s) into audience or judging pit from the competition stage.
- Crowns worn by contestants.
- Conduct of contestants, including director, deemed prejudicial to the welfare of the organization.
- Delay of contest.

- Non-singing member, in addition to director, on stage.
- Deviation from submitted prepared program.

POST-COMPETITION

- Competitors listen to the recording of their performance and critique the performance using the scoresheet, Evaluating Your Contest Performance, Performance Level Guidelines, or Entertainment Package Guidelines.
- If there is a question regarding a comment or score, the competitor may write directly to the judge. Competition Services should receive copies of all correspondence.

For more information regarding Open Division, please visit our [Open Division](#) webpage.

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS:

December 1, 2017 – Region 10

December 8, 2017 – Regions 11, 14, 25

December 29, 2017 – Regions 1, 4, 8, 9, 19

January 5, 2018 – Regions 3, 6, 16, 21

January 12, 2018 – Regions 2, 5, 13

January 19, 2018 – Regions 12, 26, 35

January 26, 2018 – Regions 31, 32

February 2, 2018 – Regions 15, 17, 34