

Judging Category Description Book: Revisions Effective 2021

Below you will find the full, exact wording for each of the revisions being presented today. You'll want to keep this close as we talk through these changes. We will only be showing bullet points in the PowerPoint of the major points of each revision, so you may want to have a highlighter or be able to take notes on this handout.

You can also find all of these changes on the SA website with this link: [JCDB Changes](#)

**Please note you must be logged in to view this information.*

****Bold Print** indicates revisions made. Regular print indicates prior wording that remains in the JCDB text in conjunction with the new revisions.

Preface:

Notes:

Music Category Revisions:

Song Stipulations (Previously Lyric Stipulations)

Competition policies established by the International Board of Directors prohibit the use of songs with religious or patriotic **or official organizational songs** as the contest song in a Regional, International, or Evaluation Only contest performance. Religious songs include hymns and other songs written to create an awareness of and reverence toward a supreme being. Patriotic songs include national anthems

and other songs written to inspire patriotism and allegiance to a particular country. **Official organizational songs include “Harmonize the World,” “How We Sang Today,” and “The Voice of Harmony.”** In the Open Division and International Entertainment Packages, religious, patriotic, **and official organization songs** of Sweet Adelines International may be used as part of the package. The degree to which such use enhances or detracts from the performance is reflected in the judges’ score and commentary.

Many songs from Broadway musicals and other sources are not considered religious or patriotic because they were written primarily for entertainment purposes rather than for inspirational values. Competition policies also require that songs be sung in English, though no penalty will be assessed for the occasional foreign language word or phrase found in American popular song.

Notes:

Lyrical Considerations

Choruses and Quartets are expected to use their filter of sensitivity and inclusivity when choosing music for competition or performance. Not all songs and lyrics in the barbershop style meet these criteria. Songs and lyrics should be carefully scrutinized and evaluated to determine whether they are suitable for performance in competition or any other performance setting. Since the manner of presentation – both visual and vocal – can affect the evaluation of this aspect of lyric performance, the Music Judge will reward lyric presentations that demonstrate both respect for the audience and a genuine regard for individual and collective harmony.

In accordance with our guiding principles of Diversity and Inclusion and the Culture of Belonging, Sweet Adelines International rejects any song that includes racist lyrics, messages and history and considers them inadmissible for performance. In evaluating the performance of an inadmissible song, the Music

Judge will be guided by appropriate application of Rule Infraction Penalties as set out in the Penalties section of this JCDB.

Notes:

Lyric Alteration:

Musical integrity generally requires that the work of an author or lyricist be performed as it was written. Most popular songs are written “in the vernacular,” using words and phrases common to the time but which may have no significance or an entirely different connotation at a later time. Lyric alteration in such cases may enable the listener to understand the original lyrical intent. **Lyric alterations, substitutions or replacements in songs that are made in an attempt to resolve historically or culturally offensive material are not recommended. The Music Judge will assess the effectiveness of and attentiveness to inclusivity in lyric changes.**

Notes:

Rule Infraction Penalties Revisions:

Inadmissible Songs: (New)

In accordance with our guiding principles of Diversity and Inclusion and the Culture of Belonging, Sweet Adelines International rejects any song that refers to racist lyrics, messages, and history and consider them inadmissible for performance. Beginning in March 2021, performance of a song deemed

inadmissible by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, in any contest session, will result in a fifty (50) point penalty and ineligibility for any International awards. In the Open Division or Evaluation Only, this will result in disqualification.

Starting October 2021, the penalty for performing any song deemed inadmissible, in all contests division, will result in disqualification. The phased implementation is to ensure that all members fully understand how to evaluate the lyrics, messages, and history of a song before the disqualification takes effect.

Notes:

Religious, Patriotic Songs and Official Organizational Songs:

Religious, patriotic, **or official organizational songs** (*Harmonize The World, How We Sang Today, and The Voice Of Harmony*) may not be sung as the contest song(s) in the regional International Division or Evaluation Only (see the Music Category, JCDB, for further clarification). Performance of any song that is considered by the music judge(s) and a majority of the judges on the official panel to be either religious, patriotic, **or an official organizational song** results in disqualification of that song with a score of zero (0) from all official judges. In the Open Division or International Entertainment Packages, religious, patriotic, or an official organizational song of Sweet Adelines International may not be used as the contest song and will also result in disqualification of that song with a score of zero (0) from all official judges. **In the Open Division or International Entertainment Packages, religious, patriotic, or official organizational songs of Sweet Adelines International may be used a part of the package.** The degree to which such is use enhances or detracts from the performance is reflected in the judges' score and commentary.

Notes:

Performance Content:

Elimination Sessions

Competition performance (time on stage) is confined to singing. An occasional special sound effect (e.g., a cough, a sigh, a clap, a finger snap, a yell, etc.) **or vocal exclamation/reaction is permissible, but non-singing conversations, dialogues, monologues or noise making devices** (e.g., bells, whistles, tambourines, drums, etc.) may not be included. In all sessions, the penalty ranges from a minimum of **five (5) to a maximum of fifty (50) points, depending on severity**. Inclusion of spoken material (**beyond a word or two**) or noise-making devices in an Open Division performance (contest song) or during an Evaluation Only performance will result in disqualification.

Entertainment Package Sessions (Intl. Finals)

Non-singing conversations, dialogues, monologues, and/or sound effects, as defined above, may be utilized in any of the noncompetition songs included in the entertainment package.

Notes:

Crowns or Tiaras:

Crowns **worn in the style of the Sweet Adelines International Champion Quartet** are prohibited, and will be penalized twenty-five (25) points, or in the case of Evaluation Only or Open Division, disqualification. **However, a contestant may wear a crown-like object as a part of their costuming (ex. Medieval, circlet, diadem, wreath, cone hat, etc.)**

Notes:

Change in Entertainment Package:

Contestants qualifying for Harmony Classic or the finals session of an International Competition are required to present a prepared program, via the Video Cue Sheet, listing the longs to be performed and the order in which they appear, designating the song to be judged as competition material, and indicating the placement of emcee material. It must also list all planned activity or emcee material that occurs prior to the first song or after the last song. Any deviation from the submitted program will result in a **penalty of forty (40) points**.

(Choruses or quartets competing for Evaluation Only in the Open Division – rule remains the same as before: deviation from submitted program will result in disqualification.)

Notes:

Exciting Announcement!!

Notes:

For every judge in every contest, it is a tremendous privilege to hear, watch and adjudicate your amazing performances. We hope these changes make the expectations of contest a little bit clearer for every performer.