

SECTION VIII: DIAMOND DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION

Purpose of Competition

1. Competition is a primary educational tool and performance opportunity for advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony.
2. The Diamond Division Quartet competition is held for the purpose of recognizing superior participation in the barbershop art form.

General Procedures

1. Competition Songs: Quartets shall be prepared to sing two songs or medleys arranged in the barbershop style and appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines competition, in accordance with standards defined in the *Judging Category Description Book* (JCDB).
2. Attire: Costuming/Make-up/Hair: The emphasis in a Sweet Adelines performance is on the unit, not any single individual. Quartets shall be costumed in stage appropriate attire in a style and color combination that is flattering to each quartet member with an emphasis upon visual unity. While most performers reinforce unity by choosing costumes that are uniform in both color and style, it is sometimes possible to depart from this sameness while maintaining a unit appearance. Accessories such as belts, collars, appliqués, sequins, rhinestones, gloves or jewelry should always complement the costume rather than provide a point of visual distraction. Finally, effective costuming will draw attention to the faces of the performers and enhance communication with the audience.

Costumes should be clean and well pressed. Costumes should also be well fitting, include the proper undergarments and allow for the breathing mechanism to function properly. In selecting color and fabric, the performer should consider how it will be affected by the intense stage lighting used in Sweet Adelines competitions and the fact that they will also be shown via video camera on the big screens in the competition venue as well as on the internet via the webcast.

Makeup should be used to emphasize each member's features in a theatrical setting that has bright lights as well as videography. Hair should be neat, tidy and off-the-face enough to emphasize the facial expressions of the performers. Again, the emphasis should be an appearance of visual unity.

3. Supervision: All Diamond Division Quartet competitions are held under the supervision of Sweet Adelines International and are subject to the Diamond Division competition and judging rules and regulations adopted by the International Board of Directors.
 - A. On-site supervision of the Diamond Division Quartet competitions is assigned to the Competition Department at IHQ, who works in conjunction with the International President, the Education Direction Committee (EDC) and the panel chair (PC) to see that all aspects of the competition operate in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Diamond Division Quartet competition.
4. Scheduling: Diamond Division Quartet competitions are held in association with an appropriate regional or internationally sponsored event.

Entry Procedures

1. Competition entry forms are sent on request by the Competition Department at IHQ.
 - A. Entry forms must be signed by individual quartet members.
2. Deadline for receipt of competition entry forms by the Competition Department at IHQ is specified annually by the Competition Department. In order to be valid, entry forms must be accompanied by:
 - A. Quartet entry fee of \$125.00 USD; or
 - B. Registration form for the regional or international event. If two (2) or more members of the quartet are registered for the regional or international event, \$50.00 USD of the competition fee is waived.

- C. Song Information, which details the song title, arranger, and the date each song was rated as Admissible from the Song Assessment Tool, for each song that will be sung during a performance. Any desired changes to the submitted songs must be a) submitted at the Contest Briefing; and b) provide the song title, arranger and the date each song was rated as Admissible from the SAT.
 - D. Entry fees are nonrefundable but may be transferred to the regional or international event registration fees.
3. Entry forms are accepted in the order of receipt with fifteen (15) contestants being accepted, depending on venue and program accessibility.

Drawing for Order of Appearance

The drawing for order of appearance is conducted by the Competition Department at IHQ no later than two (2) weeks prior to the contest.

Restrictions

1. Photography is prohibited during all competition sessions except as authorized by the Education Direction Committee (EDC) or the International Board of Directors.
2. Audio and/or video recording of competition sessions is prohibited except as authorized by the Education Direction Committee (EDC) or the International Board of Directors.
3. Community singing is not permitted during a competition session except at a scheduled intermission(s).
4. After a competition session has begun and the first contestant has performed, no quartet, except those competing for placement, may perform until all contestants have competed.
5. No smoking is permitted in the competition facility, including the traffic pattern area and warm-up rooms.
6. A member of a competing group may sing in only one (1) quartet in the same competition.

Official Recordings

1. All contracts for recording of competition sessions are made by Sweet Adelines International, and no other audio or video recording is permitted except as authorized by the Education Direction Committee (EDC) or the International Board of Directors.
2. Each contestant, or member of a competing group, may purchase video recording, of its own contest performance at the cost specified by the international organization.
3. Any other use of audio or video recordings of competition sessions is at the discretion of the Education Direction Committee (EDC) or the International Board of Directors.

Photography

Arrangements for the official photographer for the competitions are made by the co-hosting region and the Competition Department at IHQ, subject to approval of the International Board of Directors. In the case that the Diamond Division competition takes place in tandem with an internationally sponsored event, arrangements for the official photographer are made by the Director of Marketing and Communications, the Director of Events and the Competition Department at IHQ, and is subject to approval by the International Board of Directors.

The official photographer for any official Sweet Adelines competition has the exclusive right to take photographs for sales purposes.

Eligibility

1. The Diamond Division Quartet competition is open to all female quartets whose members are all fifty-five (55) years of age with a combined total of two hundred and forty (240) on the day of contest.
2. Diamond Division Quartet Champions are ineligible to compete for placement in future Diamond Division contests.

- A. No more than two (2) members of a Diamond Division champion quartet who were members of the quartet when that ranking was achieved may form a new quartet with a new name. The new quartet is eligible to enter a Diamond Division Quartet competition for placement.
- B. A quartet that includes three (3) or more members of a Diamond Division champion who were members of the quartet when that ranking was achieved may enter a Diamond Division Quartet competition for Evaluation Only.

PENALTIES

General

Violation of any competition policy adopted by the International Board of Directors is subject to penalty as determined by the panel chair (PC) after consultation with the other judges on the panel. Penalties may range from deduction of a specific number of points to disqualification. Any penalty points assessed are deducted from the total score.

Time Penalties

1. Performances are timed by the panel secretary (PS).
2. Total singing time of the two (2) separate songs or medleys shall be not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) minutes.
3. Timing begins with the first word or chord of a song and ends with the last word or chord of the same song.
4. The two (2) songs or medleys performed are timed separately, and times are added together to determine total singing time.
5. Penalties for singing over the prescribed time limit is one (1) point for every second, up to a maximum of fifty (50) points. No specific penalty is designated for singing under the prescribed time limit; however, the judges evaluate the effectiveness of undertime performances.

Rule Infraction Penalties

1. **Inadmissible Songs**: 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. The penalty for performing any song deemed inadmissible will result in disqualification.
2. **Official Language**: The official language for songs designated as competition songs in Sweet Adelines competitions is American English. The penalty, for noncompliance, ranges from a minimum of ten (10) to a maximum of twenty-five (25) points, depending on severity.
3. **Religious, Patriotic Songs and Official Organizational Songs**: Religious, patriotic or official organizational songs (*How We Sang Today* and *The Voice of Harmony*) may not be sung in the Diamond Division competition. Performance of any song that is considered by the Music judge 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.
4. **Performance content**: 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. The penalty for using spoken material (beyond a word or two) or noise-making devices ranges from a minimum of five (5) to a maximum of fifty (50) points.
5. **Crowns or Tiaras**: Crowns worn in the style of Sweet Adelines Champion Quartets are prohibited, and will be penalized twenty-five (25) points. However, a contestant may wear a crown like object as part of their costuming (ex. medieval, circlet, diadem, wreath, cone hat, etc.)

6. **Staging and Lighting:** Staging and lighting are uniform for all contestants. No penalty is attached to the use of props or visual devices in any regional or international contest sessions. The degree to which such use enhances or detracts from the performance is reflected in the Visual Communication score.

All props and visual devices must enter and leave the performance venue with the chorus or quartet. Non-members are not allowed in the traffic pattern and are not permitted to transport prop items in the traffic pattern. Storage space for any props or equipment, other than riser chairs or medically necessary items, is not provided at the contest venue.

Props or visual devices requiring excessive set up time will be subject to delay of contest penalties.

All contestants are required to leave the stage in the condition they found it. Anything discarded or dropped must be removed and exit the stage with the contestant. The penalty for violation is twenty-five (25) points.

7. **Misconduct:** Any contestant may be receive a penalty ranging from twenty-five (25) points up to and including disqualification for conduct deemed, in the judgment of the panel chair (PC) and a majority of the remaining judges on the official panel, to be injurious to the welfare of Sweet Adelines International.

PLACEMENTS AND AWARDS

Placements

1. The quartet scoring the highest number of total points from the combined scores of all of the judging categories places first and is declared the Diamond Division Quartet winner for the next calendar year.
2. The quartets scoring the next four (4) highest number of total points from the combined scores of all of the judges place second, third, fourth, and fifth in the contest.

Awards

1. Award medals and flowers provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the winning quartet.
2. Award medals provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the quartets placing second, third, fourth, and fifth.
3. Certificates of achievement are presented to each member of all of the competing quartets.

Awards Presentation

The awards presentation ceremony, held immediately following the tabulation of results, is planned by the Competition Department at IHQ.

JUDGING

General

1. **Selection of Judges:** Judging panels for Sweet Adelines competitions are recommended by the Judge Specialists to the Education Direction Committee (EDC), with approval of the International President.
 - A. The judging panel consists of four (4) judges, each assigned to a category, a panel chair (PC), and one (1) panel secretary (PS). One (1) of the category judges may be assigned to serve as panel chair (PC).
2. **Tie Scores:** If a tie in total score exists between two (2) or more contestants, the contestant receiving the highest total score in the Sound category is awarded the higher placement. If a tie still exists, the contestant receiving the highest total score in the Music category is awarded the higher placement, and this procedure is followed through the categories of Expression and Visual Communication until the tie is broken.
3. **Performance Evaluation:** Following the competition, each competing group receives a copy of the official tabulated results, a copy of each judge's scoresheet of their performance, and a recording (if purchased) of their competition performance.

4. Standards for Performance Adjudication: Performances are evaluated and adjudicated in the categories of Sound, Music, Expression and Visual Communication, according to the standards for competition performance defined in the *Judging Category Description Booklet* (JCDB).
5. Contest Validity: A valid contest must have at least three (3) contestants.

Points

1. The categories and maximum number of points available are:

Category	Points per Song/Medley		Points per Judge	Maximum Points
	Song 1	Song 2		
Sound	100	100	200	200
Music	100	100	200	200
Expression	100	100	200	200
Visual Communication	100	100	200	200
TOTALS	400	400	800	800