

SECTION VII: RISING STAR

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 Rising Star Quartet competition is held for the purpose of recognizing superior participation by young women 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. For more information, please view [Choosing the Right Music](#).
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 some performers reinforce unity by choosing costumes that are uniform in both color and style, it is equally acceptable to depart from this sameness while maintaining a unit appearance. When costuming is not identical, care should be taken to maintain a unified look (all contributing to a theme; all in a limited selection of colors and/or fabrics, etc.). 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 as needed and a comfortable fit for both competitors and audience member. Costume fit could potentially impact the performer's comfort level on stage, as well as result in insufficient room for the breathing mechanism to function properly. An effective costume will always help highlight the faces of the performers rather than directing the viewer's attention elsewhere. Accessories should always complement the costume rather than providing a visual distraction for the viewer. 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 on the appearance of visual unity.

3. Supervision: All Rising Star Quartet competitions are held under the supervision of Sweet Adelines International and are subject to the Rising Star competition and judging rules and regulations adopted by the International Board of Directors.
 - A. On-site supervision of the Rising Star 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 Rising Star Quartet competition.
4. Scheduling: Rising Star Quartet competitions are held in association with an appropriate regional or internationally sponsored event.

Entry Procedures

1. Competition entry forms are made available on the Sweet Adelines International website on the day that contest entry opens, specified annually by the Competition Department at IHQ.
2. A. Entry forms must be signed by individual quartet members and parent/guardian if contestant is under eighteen

(18) years of age.

3. 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
 - B. Registration form for the regional or international educational event. If two (2) or more members of the quartet are registered for the regional or international educational event that is held in conjunction with the contest, \$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 by the SAT.
 - D. Entry fees are non-refundable but may be transferred to the regional or international event registration fees.
4. Entry forms are accepted in the order of receipt with a maximum of fifteen (15) accepted.

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 a 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 event that the Rising Star 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 Rising Star Quartet competition is open to all female quartets whose members are all twenty-five (25) years of age or younger.
2. Rising Star Quartet Champions are ineligible to compete for placement in future Rising Star contests.
 - A. No more than two (2) members of a Rising Star 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 Rising Star Quartet competition for placement.
 - B. A Quartet that includes three (3) or more members of a Rising Star champion quartet who were members of the quartet when that ranking was achieved may enter a Rising Star 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 or under the prescribed limits are:

No. of seconds	Penalty points
<u>over or under</u>	<u>assessed</u>
15	5
30	10
45	15
60	20
75	25

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 four (4) to a maximum of twelve (12) points.
3. **Religious, Patriotic Songs, and Official Organizational Songs**: Religious, patriotic, or official organizational songs (*How We Sang Today*, *Come On And Sing*, and *The Voice of Harmony*) may not be sung as competition songs. Performance of any religious, patriotic, or 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 three (3) to a maximum of ten (10) points.

5. **Crowns or Tiaras:** Crowns worn in the style of Sweet Adelines Champion Quartets are prohibited and will be penalized five (5) points. However, a contestant may wear a crown like object as part of their costuming (ex. medieval, circlet, wreath, cone hat, etc.).
6. **Staging:** Staging and lighting are uniform for all contestants. No penalty is attached to the use of props or visual devices during the contest. Whether the prop enhances or detracts from the performance is reflected in the Visual Communication category score. 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. Props or visual devices requiring excessive set up time will be subject to delay of contest penalties. The penalty for violation ranges from four (4) to twelve (12) points.
7. **Misconduct:** Any contestant may be disqualified 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.

PLACEMENT 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 Rising Star 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. A cash award of \$3000 is provided to the winning quartet.
3. The Young Singers Fund provides \$2,000 USD to fund the winning quartet to their choice of either their champion year International Convention (if the quartet is not competing at International Quartet Semifinals) or the next Rising Star Quartet Contest.
4. Award medals provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the quartets placing second, third, fourth, and fifth.
5. Cash awards of \$2000 and \$1000 are provided to the quartets placing second and third, respectively.
6. Certificates of achievement are presented to each member of all of the competing quartets.
7. Effective January 1, 2026, the quartet whose average age is nineteen (19) or under, receiving the highest score is the winner of the Stars to Watch Achievement Award.
 - A. Charms provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the winning quartet.

Awards Presentation

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

Rising Star Quartet Names

When a quartet participates in our Rising Star contest, the contestant's name is protected for up to a year after the contest. This allows them time to register with the name if they choose. After a year, the name becomes available again.

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 Rising Star Level Descriptors.
5. **Contest Validity:** A valid contest must have at least three (3) contestants.

Points

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

Points per	Points per	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Song</u>	<u>Judge</u>
Sound	100	200
Music	100	200
Expression	100	200
Visual Communication	100	200
TOTAL		800

2. The total points of each of the judges is equivalent to the following rating scale:

Superior	81 -100
Excellent	61 - 80
Good	41 - 60
Fair	21 - 40
Poor	0 – 20