



Young Women In Harmony Video Chorus Contest Rules and Regulations

SECTION I: ADMINISTRATION

1. Purpose of Competition
 - a. Competition is a primary educational tool and performance opportunity for advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony.
 - b. The Young Women In Harmony Video Chorus competition is held for the purpose of recognizing superior participation by young women in the barbershop art form.
2. General Procedures
 - a. **Competition Songs:** Choruses 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 review to [Choosing the Right Music](#).
 - b. **Evaluation Only:** Any chorus may compete for Evaluation Only by so indicating on the entry blank submitted to International Headquarters.
 - c. **Attire:** Costuming/Make-up/Hair: The emphasis in a Sweet Adelines performance is on the unit, not any single individual. Choruses shall be costumed in stage appropriate attire in a style and color combination that is flattering to each performer 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 lighting used for the stage as well as videography.

Make-up 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.
 - d. **Supervision:** The Young Women In Harmony video competition is subject to the judging rules and regulations adopted by the International Board of Directors.

3. Entry Procedures

- a. Competition entry forms are available by download from the Sweet Adelines International website, www.sweetadelines.com, or can be emailed on request by international headquarters staff.
 - (1) Entry forms must be signed by chorus leader, director or educator. The chorus or sponsoring group must maintain proof of permission to participate from a parent or guardian for any singers, under eighteen (18) years of age, in the competing chorus.
- b. Deadline for receipt of competition entry forms at international headquarters is June 1. In order to be valid, entry forms must be accompanied by:
 - (1) Chorus entry fee of \$25.00 US; and
 - (2) Video recording in the specified format.
- c. Entry forms are accepted in the order of receipt with a maximum of twenty (20) accepted.
- d. Entry fees are non-refundable, except if Sweet Adelines International cancels the contest.

4. Eligibility

- a. The Young Women In Harmony video competition is open to female choruses whose singing members are all twenty five (25) years of age or younger.
- b. A chorus must have a minimum of twelve (12) singing members on stage and all four voice parts represented.

SECTION II: PENALTIES

1. General

- a. Violation of any competition policy adopted by the International Board of Directors is subject to penalty as determined by the panel chair 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.

2. Time Penalties

- a. Total singing time of the two separate songs or medleys shall be not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) minutes.
- b. Timing begins with the first word or chord of a song and ends with the last word or chord of the same song.

- c. The two songs or medleys performed are timed separately, and times are added together to determine total singing time.
- d. Penalties for singing over or under the prescribed limits are:

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

3. Rule Infraction Penalties

- a. **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. Performance of the competition song(s) not sung primarily in English in Evaluation Only will result in disqualification.
- b. **Official Songs:** The official songs of Sweet Adelines International are Harmonize the World and How We Sang Today; neither of these songs may be sung in competition. Performance of any official song results in disqualification of that song with a score of zero (0) from all official judges. Performance of any official song in Evaluation Only will result in disqualification.
- c. **Religious and Patriotic Songs:** Religious and patriotic songs may not be sung in 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 or patriotic results in disqualification of that song with a score of zero (0) from all official judges. Performance of a religious or patriotic song as the contest song in Evaluation Only will result in disqualification.
- d. **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 or noise-making devices ranges from a minimum of three (3) to a maximum of ten (10) points.
- d. **Crowns or Tiaras:** Crowns may not be worn by any member of a competing chorus during their competition performance. The penalty for violation is five (5) points. Crowns worn by a contestant in Evaluation Only performances will result in disqualification.
- e. **Disqualification:** Any competitor that is disqualified from any competition, in any division, will not receive a scoresheet.

SECTION III: PLACEMENTS AND AWARDS

1. Placements
 - a. The chorus scoring the highest number of total points from the combined scores of all of the judges places first.
 - b. The choruses scoring the next two highest numbers of total points from the combined scores of all of the judges place second and third in the contest.
2. Awards
 - a. A cash award of \$1000 US is provided to the first place chorus.
 - b. Cash awards of \$750 US and \$500 US are provided to the choruses placing second and third, respectively.
 - c. A Young Women In Harmony Competition Music Folio will be awarded to the choruses placing first, second and third.
 - d. Certificates of achievement are sent to each competing chorus.

SECTION IV: JUDGING

1. General
 - a. **Selection of Judges:** The judging panel for the Young Women In Harmony video competition is composed of four members of the International Board of Directors. One of these judges serves as panel chair, or a separate panel chair may be assigned.
 - b. **Tie Scores:** If a tie in total score exists between two 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 showmanship until the tie is broken.
 - c. **Performance Evaluation:** Following the competition, each competing group receives a copy of the official tabulated results and a copy of each judge's scoresheet.
 - d. **Standards for Performance Adjudication:** Performances are evaluated and adjudicated in the categories of sound, music, expression and showmanship, according to the standards for competition performance defined in the Rising Star Level Descriptors.

- e. A valid contest must have at least three (3) contestants.
 - (1) In the event that there are not three (3) contestants, the entry fee will be refunded and the video returned.

2. Points

- a. The categories and maximum number of points available are:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points per Song</u>	<u>Points per Judge</u>
Sound	50	100
Music	50	100
Expression	50	100
Showmanship	50	100
TOTAL		400

- b. The total points for each of the judges are equivalent to the following rating scale:

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

3. Evaluation Only

- a. Contestants performing for Evaluation Only receive letter grades only and are not assigned numerical scores by the judging panel.
- b. There is no ranking of contestants competing for Evaluation Only.
 - (1) Such contestants are listed at the end of the official tabulated results, with the indication Evaluation Only in place of a numerical score and/or placement.

SECTION V: VIDEO SUBMISSION

1. Entry Procedures

- a. A chorus choosing to submit a video recording for evaluation must complete the following steps.
 - (1) Submit a formal entry form and registration fee by established deadline.
 - (2) Submit the video recording, prepared in accordance with the requirements listed below, to the Competition Department at International Headquarters by June 1.

2. Requirements for Recording

- a. Ideally, the video camera used to record the performance should be able to take direct sound input from balanced microphones. If not, the recording should be checked to ensure that the quality of the recording is sufficient for an effective evaluation.
- b. The performance is to be recorded in real time from one live session with no post-production editing.
 - (1) The performance must have taken place between July 1 of the preceding year and May 31 of the current year.
- c. The recording is to be submitted on a flash drive or via Dropbox link.
- d. The facility and the lighting should be suitable for a competition performance. Lighting is to be uniform for the entire performance and no special effects are to be used.
- e. Camera shots should be taken with the judges in mind. They need to see facial expression, choreography, full shots, etc. It is recommended that during ballads there should be more close-ups and panning. During uptunes, wide angle shots are usually more effective. Long shots should frame the chorus. Be sure to have a variety of shots without creating a jumpy video or giving the viewer a feeling of a rolling sea.
- f. At the beginning of the recording, an individual is to introduce the contestant, announcing the name of the chorus. The announcement should include the director's name, the chorus's school, regional or chapter affiliation, if applicable, and location.
- g. The chorus will perform two contest songs. The performance is subject to all contest rules, such as timing, content, etc. and should include a formal bow.
- h. Choruses are encouraged to use choral risers but it is not required. The chorus should be in full costume and make-up. The make-up must be applied in such a manner that it is appropriate for video recording.

3. General Procedures

- a. The submitted recording is the property of Sweet Adelines International and will not be returned to the chorus.
- b. Sweet Adelines International has the exclusive right to use the recording in any manner consistent with the purpose of Sweet Adelines International.