

OFFICIAL RULES – COMEDY ENTRIES ONLY

Southern California Open COMEDY Quartet Contest Saturday, April 25, 2026

Quartet Entry Requirements

1. Entrants will be barbershop quartets. Four people singing tenor, lead, baritone and bass. Quartets members may be either male or female (however note rule on non-BHS members, below).
2. On the date of the contest, at least ONE member of the quartet must be a current, dues-paid member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), OR Otherwise: A current member of BHS must be listed as Coach/Sponsor on the application forms, and in so doing vouch that they have coached or verified the quartet is singing in the barbershop style.
3. A designated Quartet member or Coach who is a member of BHS must assume responsibility for the safekeeping of the traveling trophy(s) they may win and their safe return for the following contest. Responsible person contact information must be provided.
4. The quartet must have a name that is not registered to any other quartet registered with the Barbershop Harmony Society. Quartet registration with BHS is not required, but the quartet must have a name that is not offensive.

Registration

1. Advance submission of entry forms by email or other means is encouraged and secures time-based discounts.
2. A non-refundable registration fee must be submitted with the registration or a copy if previously submitted, up to one hour prior to start of competition. **Deadline for Submission of Entry information is on Application form**
3. Entries will be taken in the order received and will be limited to 16 quartets FOR THE COMBINED NOVICE AND COMEDY CONTESTS. Entries beyond the first 16 will be held as a standby list and in the case of withdrawals, will be used to fill the vacancies.

Performance

1. The quartet will perform **two songs FOR THE COMEDY ENTRY**.
2. SINGING: Emphasis will be on good vocal production. Comedy shtick should be secondary.
3. MUSIC: Adherence to strict rules of barbershop will not be required as long as the general barbershop harmony structure (TLBB) is observed. No musical instruments may be used. Kazoos are permitted. Quartet members may sing solos, different words from each other, or use syncopation and other timing gimmicks to produce the comedic effect. Strange chords will be permitted, again to enhance the entertainment of the audience. Lyrics must be in good taste.
4. PERFORMANCE: Each quartet will present two songs within approximately six minutes. Between-song patter may or may not be used. Costumes and props that promote the theme of the presentation are encouraged, but should not detract from the main goal of good singing.

Judging and Scoring

1. In contrast to the separate NOVICE Quartet Contest, NO HANDICAP Is applied to scores or rankings in the Comedy Contest. Every Quartet is judged based on the overall quality and comedic impact of their own performance.
2. The judging panel will consider the quality of barbershop music as practiced by the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) practice. Certain areas will be relaxed in order to enhance the opportunities for comedic presentation. However, judging is not bound by formal BHS rules and may consider audience reaction and intangible comedy considerations. JUDGES HAVE FULL DISCRETION AND THEIR DECISION IS FINAL

Direct questions to:

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