

# OFFICIAL RULES – NOVICE ENTRIES ONLY

## 61st Annual Southern California Open Novice Quartet Contest

Saturday, April 25, 2026

### Quartet Entry Requirements

1. All members of the quartet must be members of the Barbershop Harmony Society in good standing (**Receipt for timely dues payment, redacted to show name/date, will be accepted**), Exception for students through high school
2. If no members of the quartet are BHS members (e.g. an all-High School Student quartet) then 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 that the quartet is singing in the barbershop style.
3. The quartet must have a name that is not registered to any other Society quartet. The quartet may be registered with the Society, but is not required to be.
4. A designated Quartet member or Coach who is a member of BHS must assume responsibility for the safekeeping of traveling trophy(s) they may win and their safe return for the following contest. Responsible person contact information must be provided.

### 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**
2. 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 NOVICE ENTRY**.
2. The quartet performance must be in accordance with Society contest rules, which are available from Society Headquarters (1-800-876-SING and [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)). All songs must be contestable barbershop arrangements and the quartet must have legal permission to perform them.

### Judging and Scoring

1. The judging panel will consist of certified judges or others trained for the category, in accordance with Society Contest and Judging Rules.
2. A handicap system will be used. For each quartet member with previous contest experience (either as a quartet member or as a chorus member), a reduction weighted by the **highest level** of previous contest achievement will be applied to the quartet's score for **each song** as shown in the chart below For example, an individual has previously competed in the novice contest and has also competed with his chorus, which placed fifth in the district. Their handicap would be 12. The handicap will be computed as part of the registration process.

| Lvl | Quartet Competition              | Hdcp | Lvl | Chorus Competition               | Hdcp |
|-----|----------------------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|------|
| Q1  | International Medalist (top 5)   | 50   | C1  | International Finalist (top 10)  | 20   |
| Q2  | International Finalist (6 -20)   | 43   | C2  | International Competitor (11 - ) | 15   |
| Q3  | International Competitor (21 - ) | 30   | C3  | District Medalist (top 3)        | 15   |
| Q4  | District Medalist (top 3)        | 30   | C4  | District Finalist (4 -10)        | 12   |
| Q5  | District Finalist (4 -10)        | 20   | C5  | District Competitor (11 - )      | 10   |
| Q6  | District Competitor (11 - )      | 15   | C6  | Division Medalist (top 3)        | 10   |
| Q7  | Division Medalist (top 3)        | 15   | C7  | Division Finalist (4 – 10)       | 5    |
| Q8  | Division Finalist (4 – 10)       | 12   | C8  | Division Competitor (11 - )      | 0    |
| Q9  | Division Competitor (11 - )      | 10   |     |                                  |      |
| Q10 | Novice Competitor                | 5    | n/a | No Previous Contest Experience   | 0    |

Revised November 2, 2012

Direct questions to:

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