



Official Contest Rules of The Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers (SNOBS)

Introduction

These contest rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests arranged by SNOBS. The rules are based on the Contest Rules of the Barbershop Harmony Society, with local adaptations. SNOBS rules are tailored so that quartets and choruses competing in SNOBS contests are eligible for qualification to the International Contest arranged by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

§ 1. Requirements and Conditions for competing

A. Quartets

1. Membership

All quartet members must be full members of and on good terms with SNOBS. Payment is due 14 days before contest.

2. Contest Categories

Male, Female or Mixed quartets can compete in SNOBS. In mixed quartets at least one member must have a different gender identification than the other members. Awards will be presented in all three categories.

3. Competing in multiple quartets

Members are allowed to compete in multiple quartets but only in one quartet per category (Male, Female, Mixed). According to the current BHS rules, members are only allowed to compete in one quartet in the international contest.

4. World Champion Quartets

World Champion Quartets are not allowed to compete in the SNOBS Quartet Contest. A maximum of two World Champion Quartet members may compete in a new quartet together and then under a new quartet name.

B. Choruses

1. Membership

All chorus members must be full members of and on good terms with SNOBS. Payment is due 14 days before contest.

2. Contest Categories

Male, Female or Mixed choruses can compete in SNOBS. Awards will be presented in all three categories. A mixed chorus is defined as a chorus with members of different gender identifications. Awards will be presented in all three categories.

3. Number of singers

A competing chorus must be at least 12 members on stage, director included.

4. Competing in multiple choruses

Members are allowed to compete in multiple choruses in SNOBS. According to current BHS rules members are allowed to represent multiple choruses in the international chorus contest.

5. Distinctly Separate Choruses

Choruses may not be comprised of more than 75% of the same members on stage as another chorus competing for the same contest award. The percentage threshold is calculated against the smaller chorus.

§ 2. Registration to compete

SNOBS leadership will invite all members (quartets and choruses) to compete in SNOBS contests. Registration deadline will be decided by SNOBS and communicated no later than 3 months before the contest.

§ 3. Convention attendee registration

Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must hold a valid Convention attendee registration.

§ 4. Judging System

1. SNOBS contests are judged using the BHS judging system:
[CONTEST AND JUDGING HANDBOOK \(barbershop.org\)](http://barbershop.org)
2. Description of the Judging Categories
 - A. The **Music** judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. The judge adjudicates the suitability of the material to the barbershop style and the performer's musicianship in bringing the song and arrangement to life. The quality of any barbershop performance depends largely on the accurate execution and artistic delivery of the consonant harmony. The judge adjudicates the performer's sensitivity and demonstrated understanding in handling these musical elements, skillfully developed, delivered, and effectively integrated in support of the musical theme(s). Furthermore, when considering the song and arrangement, the Music judge takes into account musical elements provided by the composer and arranger, such as melody, lyrics, rhythm, embellishments, implied harmony and stylistic progressions.
 - B. The **Performance** judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life; that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. The judge responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the performance, but the judge principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. The judge adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Performance judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.
 - C. The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. Artistic singing is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill and appropriate vocal expression, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements creates a fullness and expansion of sound, and when combined with expressive vocal skills will convey a feeling of genuine emotion to support the message of the song.

3. The actual scoring and judging in each category (Music, Singing, Performance) is carried out in exactly the same manner as described in the BHS Contest and Judging Handbook, but local adjustments around the contest may apply.

§ 5. Judges and Contest Administrator

- A. Judges are assigned by the Convention Committee. The assigned judges should be certified by the Society Contest and Judging Committee (BHS)
- B. A minimum of one judge per category should be assigned. However, to be automatically eligible for qualification to the international contest a minimum of two judges per category (6 in total) are needed.
- C. The assigned Contest Administrator is in charge of the contest and:
 - Decides when the contest starts and ends.
 - Has the right to stop the contest if he or she find it necessary.
 - Gives MC green light when the next competitor should be announced.
 - Decides when the scores are final and can be announced.

§ 6. Contest

A. Quartets

1. The quartet contest consists of two rounds. Semi final and final. Quartets sing two songs in the semi final and two songs in the final (if qualified)
If less than 14 competing quartets in one single category, the top 6 scoring quartets qualify for the final. 7 out of 14, 7 out of 15, 8 out of 16....etc
2. If more than 25 competing quartets in one single category the contest is divided in two or several sessions.
3. The qualifying score for the international contest is defined on a yearly basis by the Society Contest and Judging Committee and the CEO of BHS. If judged by a double panel each quartet in the final who reaches this score is eligible to be invited to the international contest in July the same year. This in accordance with the Alliance Memorandum that SNOBS holds with BHS. Invitation is always at the discretion of the Executive Director of BHS.
4. Quartets qualified to the international contest may not replace any member of the quartet between the SNOBS qualification and the International Contest.
5. Each member of a quartet competing in any **Seniors Quartet** contest must be age 55 or older and the sum of the accumulated ages of the quartet must equal or exceed 240 years. Age is defined as age on the day of the contest. The SNOBS Senior Quartet

Champion, if meeting the score decided by BHS or above is eligible to be invited to the International Senior Quartet Contest to be held during the Midwinter Convention the same year. Invitation is always at the discretion of the Executive Director of BHS.

6. Each member of a quartet competing in the SNOBS **Youth Quartet** Contest must be under the age of 26 at the day of the contest.
7. Awards are presented to the top 3 quartets in each category.
8. **Grand Prix trophy** is awarded to the best quartet of the convention regardless of category.
9. **Most improved quartet trophy** is presented to the quartet with the best result in relation to when the quartet last competed in SNOBS regardless of category (based on total average score the last SNOBS contest and current year total average)
10. **Rookie of the year trophy** is presented to the the highest scoring quartet regardless of category where maximum 1 member has competed in the quartet contest at a previous SNOBS convention. (based on semi-final score)
11. **Youth Quartet trophy** is presented to the best quartet regardless of category where all members are maximum 25 years old on the day of the quartet final. (based on semi final score)
12. **Senior Quartet trophy** is presented to the best senior quartet regardless of category (see definition above, based on semi-final score)

B. Choruses

1. The chorus contest consists of a final where each chorus sing two songs.
2. If more than 8 competing choruses the contest is divided in two or several sessions.
3. The qualifying score for the international contest is defined on a yearly basis by the Society Contest and Judging Committee and the CEO of BHS. If judged by a double panel each chorus in the final who reaches this score is eligible to be invited to the international contest in July the following year. This in accordance with the Alliance Memorandum that SNOBS holds with BHS. Invitation is always at the discretion of the Executive Director of BHS.
4. Awards are presented to the top 3 choruses in each category.
5. **Grand Prix trophy** is presented to the best chorus of the convention regardless of category.

6. **Most improved chorus trophy** is presented to the chorus with the best result in relation to when the chorus last competed in SNOBS regardless of category.

Tie situations

- If more than one competing group get the same total score, the tie will be broken by ranking the groups according to their Singing category score (then performance, then music)
This applies for all awards and trophies.

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