

*Rising Star Quartet 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 Rising Star Quartet competition is held for the purpose of recognizing superior participation by young women in the barbershop art form.

2. General Procedures

- a. Competition Songs: Quartets shall be prepared to sing two songs or medleys appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines competition, in accordance with standards defined in the *Judging Category Description Book (JCDB)*.

- b. 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 in accordance with standards defined in the *Judging Category Description Book (JCDB)*. 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, appliques, 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 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 Web cast.

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.

- c. 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.
  - (1) On-site supervision of the Rising Star Quartet competitions is assigned to the international headquarters staff, which works in conjunction with the International President, the Education Direction Committee and the panel chair to see that all aspects of the competitions operate in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Rising Star competition.
- d. Scheduling: Rising Star Quartet competitions are held during the annual International Convention and Competition.

3. Entry Procedures

- a. Competition entry forms are mailed on request by international headquarters staff.
  - (1) Entry forms must be signed by individual quartet members and parent/guardian if contestant is under eighteen (18) years of age.
- b. Deadline for receipt of competition entry forms at international headquarters is August 1. In order to

be valid, entry forms must be accompanied by:

- (1) *Quartet entry fee of \$100.00 US; or*
- (2) *Registration form for International convention. If two or more members of the quartet are registered for convention, the competition fee is waived.*
- (3) *Entry fees are nonrefundable but may be transferred to a convention registration.*

c. Entry forms are accepted in the order of receipt with a maximum of twenty (20) accepted.

4. Drawing for Order of Appearance

a. The drawing for order of appearance is conducted no later than August 4 at international headquarters under the supervision of the Director of Music Services.

5. Restrictions

a. Photography is prohibited during all competition sessions except as authorized by the Education Direction Committee or the International Board of Directors.

b. Audio and/or video recording of competition sessions is prohibited except as authorized by the Education Direction Committee or the International Board of Directors.

c. Community singing is not permitted during a competition session except at a scheduled intermission.

d. 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.

e. No smoking is permitted in the competition hall, including the traffic pattern area and warm-up rooms.

f. A member of a competing group may sing in only one quartet in the same competition.

6. Official Recordings

a. 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 or the International Board of Directors.

b. Each contestant is provided an audio recording of its competition performance.

c. 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.

d. Any other use of audio or video recordings of competition sessions is at the discretion of the Education Direction Committee or the International Board of Directors.

7. Photography

a. Arrangements for the official photographer for the competitions are made by the Director of Communications and Director of Music Services, subject to approval of the International Board of Directors.

b. The official photographer for any official Sweet Adelines competition has the exclusive right to take photographs for sales purposes. This does not restrict news and amateur photographers from taking pictures for purposes other than sale.

8. Eligibility

- a. The Rising Star Quartet competition is open to female quartets whose members are all twenty five years of age or younger.
- b. Rising Star Quartet Champions are ineligible to compete for placement in future Rising Star contests.
  - (1) 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.
  - (2) 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.
- c. No member of a Rising Star Quartet may compete in the International Quartet competition in the same year.

SECTION II: PENALTIES

1. General

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. Performances are timed by the panel secretary.
- b. Total singing time of the two separate songs or medleys shall be not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) minutes.
- c. Timing begins with the first word or chord of a song and ends with the last word or chord of the same song.
- d. The two songs or medleys performed are timed separately, and times are added together to determine total singing time.
- e. Penalties for singing over or under the prescribed limits are:

No. of seconds over or under	Penalty points assessed
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 (see the Music Category, *JCDB*, for additional clarification.) The penalty, for noncompliance, ranges from a minimum of four (4) to a maximum of twelve (12) points.

- 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.
- c. Religious and Patriotic Songs: Religious and patriotic songs may not be sung in competition (see the Music Category, *JCDB*, for additional clarification.) 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.
- 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.) is permissible, but spoken material 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 four (4) to a maximum of twelve (12) points.
- e. 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 showmanship 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.
- f. Misconduct: Any contestant may be disqualified for conduct deemed, in the judgement of the panel chair and a majority of the remaining judges on the official panel, to be prejudicial to the welfare of Sweet Adelines International.

### SECTION III: PLACEMENTS AND AWARDS

#### 1. Placements

- a. The quartet scoring the highest number of total points from the combined scores of all of the judges places first and is declared the Rising Star Quartet winner for that year.
- b. The quartets scoring the next four highest number of total points from the combined scores of all of the judges place second, third, fourth, and fifth in the contest.

#### 2. Awards

- a. Award medals and flowers provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the winning quartet.
  - b. A cash award of \$2000 is provided to the winning quartet.
  - c. Award medals provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the quartets placing second, third, fourth, and fifth.
  - d. Cash awards of \$1000 and \$500 are provided to the quartets placing second and third, respectively.
  - e. Certificates of achievement are presented to each member of all of the competing quartets.
  - f. The quartet, whose average age is 16 or under, receiving the highest score is the winner of the Stars To Watch Achievement Award.
- (1) Ribbons (dark pink) provided by Sweet Adelines International are presented to each member of the winning quartet.

3. Awards Presentation

- a. The awards presentation ceremony, held immediately following the tabulation of results, is planned by the director of music services.

SECTION IV: JUDGING

1. General

- a. Selection of Judges: Judging panels for Sweet Adelines competitions are recommended by the Judge Specialists to the Education Direction Committee, with the approval of the International President.
- 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, a copy of each judge's scoresheet, and a recording of their competition performance.
- 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 *JCDB*.
- e. A valid contest must have at least three (3) contestants.
- f. The judging panel consists of four (4) judges, each assigned to a category in which she is qualified, a panel chair, and one (1) panel secretary. One of the judges may be assigned to serve as panel chair.

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 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