

Harmony Explosion! Judging and Scoring Guidelines

Quartets or Groups in the **preliminary round** of competition will sing one song in the Barbershop style (4-part a cappella harmony) and receive numeric scores with written comments from a panel of **four judges** (two Barbershop judges and two Sweet Adelines judges). Each judge can award up to 20 points each in five areas (100 points maximum per judge) within the following two categories:

Singing Category – up to 100 points per judge

- Quality of 4-part Harmony – 20 points maximum per judge
- Singing in Tune – 20 points maximum per judge
- Blending of Voices – 20 points maximum per judge
- Vocal Quality – 20 points maximum per judge
- Artistry – 20 points maximum per judge

Presentation Category – up to 100 points per judge

- Audience Engagement / Entertainment – 20 points maximum per judge
- Vocal and Visual Agreement – 20 points maximum per judge
- Believability – 20 points maximum per judge
- Telling / Selling the Lyric – 20 points maximum per judge
- Level of Effort / Having Fun! – 20 points maximum per judge

The numeric scores for each Quartet or Group will be added together. Quartets or Groups having the highest scores in the preliminary round of competition will advance to the final round of competition, based on the following criteria:

| Division | | In the Prelims | | in the Finals |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Any Division | Girls | Up to 6 Entries | >>> | Top 3 Will Compete |
| Any Division | Boys | Up to 6 Entries | >>> | Top 3 Will Compete |
| Any Division | Girls | 7 to 10 Entries | >>> | Top 4 Will Compete |
| Any Division | Boys | 7 to 10 Entries | >>> | Top 4 Will Compete |
| Any Division | Girls | 11 or More Entries | >>> | Top 5 Will Compete |
| Any Division | Boys | 11 or More Entries | >>> | Top 5 Will Compete |

New 2017 Rule: Any Quartet or Group scoring more than 339 total points out of a possible 400 ($\geq 85\%$) in prelims that does not qualify as a Top 3 or Top 4 or Top 5 in their Division will automatically qualify and advance to finals → every Gold-Medal performance in prelims will advance to finals.

Quartets or Groups in the **final round** of competition will sing one song in the Barbershop style (4-part a cappella harmony) and receive numeric scores with written comments from a double panel of **eight judges** (four Barbershop judges and four Sweet Adelines judges). Judges from the preliminary round are not allowed to judge in the final round. Each judge can award up to 100 points maximum in the Singing and Presentation categories as outlined above.

Scores from the final round will be added to the scores from the preliminary round. Awards will be given to the Quartets or Groups (based on the highest total scores) according to the following criteria:

- **Gold:** Quartets or Groups scoring 1,020 or more total points out of a possible 1,200 ($> 85.0\%$)
- **Silver:** Quartets or Groups scoring 900 or more total points out of a possible 1,200 ($> 75.0\%$)
- **Bronze:** Quartets or Groups scoring 780 or more total points out of a possible 1,200 ($> 65.0\%$)