



Rules for Harmony Explosion!

- 1) There will be three (3) girls divisions and three (3) boys divisions in Harmony Explosion!
 - Middle School Girls / Boys Division (8th Grade and Under): Quartets of 4 members or Groups of 5, 6, 7, or 8 members, with no more than 2 members singing the same part.
 - Sophomore Girls / Boys Division (10th Grade and Under): Quartets of 4 members only.
 - Senior Girls / Boys Division (12th Grade and Under): Quartets of 4 members only.

- 2) Groups of 5, 6, 7, or 8 members will be allowed in the Middle School Division, as long as no more than two members sing the same part (1 or 2 tenors; 1 or 2 leads; 1 or 2 baritones; 1 or 2 basses). These Groups will not be allowed in the Sophomore or Senior Divisions.

- 3) Participation in a division is based on a student's year in school as provided on the registration form, not on a student's age.

- 4) Quartets or Groups will sing in only one Division.

- 5) Quartets or Groups can be made up of students from the same school, or from multiple schools (called an at-large entry). Students may sing in more than one Quartet or Group, provided that 50% or more of the members in the second Quartet or Group have not sung in another Quartet or Group in the same competition. Taking two members from Quartet A and two members from Quartet B to form Quartet C is forbidden. Two members from Quartet A can sing in Quartet D with two new members that have not sung in another Quartet in the competition.

- 6) Quartets or Groups will sing one song in the Barbershop style (4-part a cappella harmony) for the judges in a preliminary round of competition. There will be a panel of four (4) judges in the preliminary round – one panel for the girls' competition and one panel for the boys' competition. None of the judges in the preliminary round will be judging in the final round.

- 7) Quartets or Groups will be judged in the following 5 categories (20 points maximum per category; 100 points maximum per judge).
 - **Singing:** Quality of 4-part Harmony; Singing in Tune; Blending of Voices; Vocal Quality; Artistry.
 - **Presentation:** Audience Engagement / Entertainment; Vocal and Visual Agreement; Believability; Telling / Selling the Lyric; Having Fun!

- 8) Each judge will give a numeric score with written comments at the end of each performance. The numeric scores from the preliminary round will be added together to give a preliminary competition score. Quartets or Groups having the highest preliminary scores will advance to the final round, 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



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In the example below, 24 Entries out of 52 total would participate in the Finals:

Division		In the Prelims		in the Finals
Middle School	Girls	8 Entries	>>>	Top 4 Will Compete
Middle School	Boys	5 Entries	>>>	Top 3 Will Compete
Sophomore	Girls	9 Entries	>>>	Top 4 Will Compete
Sophomore	Boys	10 Entries	>>>	Top 4 Will Compete
Senior	Girls	8 Entries	>>>	Top 4 Will Compete
Senior	Boys	12 Entries	>>>	Top 5 Will Compete
52 Entries in Prelims				24 Entries in Finals

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.

9) Quartets or Groups in the final round will sing one song in the Barbershop style (4-part a cappella harmony) and receive numeric scores from a double-panel of eight judges for girls' and boys' finalists. The numeric scores from the finals will be added to the scores received in the preliminary round, to determine the total score for the competition.

10) 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 more than 1,019 total points out of a possible 1,200 ($\geq 85.0\%$)
- Silver: Quartets or Groups scoring more than 899 total points out of a possible 1,200 ($\geq 75.0\%$)
- Bronze: Quartets or Groups scoring more than 779 total points out of a possible 1,200 ($\geq 65.0\%$)

11) Quartets or Groups having the highest scores in each division will receive an invitation to appear and sing with the Heart of America Chorus on its annual Spring Show. Schools with award-winning Quartets or Groups will receive plaques based on the following criteria (at-large entries will not receive a plaque):

- Outstanding Achievement – one or more Gold Medal Winning Quartets or Groups
- Excellent Achievement – one or more Silver or Bronze Medal Winning Quartets or Groups

12) The performances for prelims will be scheduled simultaneously as follows, to allow Middle School and Sophomore Division Music Educators to remain with their students and observe their performances:

Odd Years:
(x1, x3, x5, x7, x9)

Room A (Main Auditorium)
Sophomore Boys Division
Sophomore Girls Division
Senior Boys Division

Room B (Drama Theater)
Senior Girls Division
Middle School Boys Division
Middle School Girls Division

Even Years:
(x0, x2, x4, x6, x8)

Room A (Main Auditorium)
Middle School Girls Division
Middle School Boys Division
Senior Girls Division

Room B (Drama Theater)
Senior Boys Division
Sophomore Girls Division
Sophomore Boys Division