



BARBERSHOP HARMONY NEW ZEALAND
Contest Rules – Updated January 2019

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FOREWORD

These rules apply to all quartet and chorus contests at the Regional and National levels in Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHNZ). These rules are BHNZ specific, and supplement the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) Contest Rules under which BHNZ contests are conducted. The BHS Contest Rules should be consulted in case of issues or concerns not addressed within.

Any requests for exception to any of the following rules on eligibility must be made to the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee (C & J) through its Chairperson. The final decision will be agreed by the board of BHNZ and relayed back to the initiator through the Chairperson of the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee.

Regional Quartet competitions shall be held, where possible, in conjunction with regional Harmony Education Aotearoa (HEA) workshops for the purpose of qualifying for any of the National Quartet competitions.

The National Quartet competition shall be held in conjunction with the BHNZ National Convention and shall consist of up to six separate contests:

- a. Open Quartet
- b. Senior Quartet
- c. Novice Quartet
- d. Youth Barbershop Quartet
- e. Mixed Harmony Quartet
- f. BHNZ International Preliminary Contest

The National Chorus competition shall be held in Conjunction with the BHNZ National Convention and consist of up to two separate contests:

- a. Open Chorus
- b. Small Chorus

ARTICLE I: ELIGIBILITY

A. Quartets

1. Membership and Quartet Registration Requirements

a. BHNZ and Chapter:

All members of competing quartets, with the exception of the current Young Men In Harmony winning quartet (for whom honorary membership will be granted), must be members in good standing of BHNZ as defined in Article 14 of the [BHNZ Constitutional Rules](#).

b. Quartet Registration:

To be eligible for competition, a quartet must be registered with the BHNZ. A quartet whose registration is not current and up to date will be considered ineligible for competition.

2. Convention Registration

Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

3. Open Quartet Contest

a. Current BHNZ Champions

The current BHNZ National Quartet Champion must stand down for a year so is not eligible to compete for the next year's BHNZ Quartet Championship. However, should they wish to qualify for the BHS International Quartet Contest, they may enter the BHNZ International Preliminary Contest.

b. Other Quartets

Any quartet that has met the eligibility requirements (See [Article II B. 1.](#) below) is eligible to compete in the BHNZ Open Quartet Contest.

4. Seniors Quartet

Each member of a quartet competing in the BHNZ Seniors Quartet contest must be age 55 or older and the sum of the ages of the members must equal or exceed 240 years as of the day of the BHNZ Seniors Quartet contest.

5. Novice Quartet

A novice quartet must contain at least three members who have not previously sung in a BHNZ National Quartet competition.

6. Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest

All members of the quartet must be under the age of 25 on the day of the contest.

7. Mixed Harmony Quartet

Mixed Harmony Quartets must contain at least 1 (one) female or male member such that there are both male and female quartet members.

8. International Preliminary

All male quartets who have qualified for the BHNZ National Quartet Competition are eligible to compete in the International Preliminary.

9. Visitor Quartets

a. Request:

Under normal circumstances, quartets are expected to compete in their home associations. In exceptional circumstances, however, a quartet may request to compete in an association other than their own, in order to attain a qualifying score or for experience and evaluation.

b. Action:

Such requests by quartets to compete in an association other than their own must have unanimous approval by the BHNZ Contest & Judging Chairperson and President and the home association's representative for Contest and Judging and President.

c. Deadline:

This request, including an indication of scoring level, must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the contest for which entry is desired.

d. A Visitor Quartet must meet the contest eligibility requirements of their own organisation.

e. A Visitor Quartet is not eligible to compete for any BHNZ award.

10. Competing in Multiple Quartets

In the BHNZ International Preliminary contest a member may compete with only **one** quartet, regardless of the number of quartets or organisations to which he belongs. However, a member may compete in multiple quartets in any other BHNZ quartet contest.

B. Choruses

1. Membership Requirements

All members of competing choruses, including female directors, must be members in good standing of the BHNZ and a member of each chapter they choose to represent in competition. Chapters represented in BHNZ chorus contests must be chapters in good standing of BHNZ as defined in the BHNZ Constitutional Rules.

2. Chorus Champion Stand Down Year

The previous year's Chorus Champions are required to stand down from BHNZ Chorus Competition for one year. However, they may perform in the competition for "Evaluation Only", preferably immediately following the last official contestant as part of their "swan song" performance. The chorus will receive a score, but not be ranked as part of the BHNZ competition.

3. One Chorus per Chapter

Chapters may not enter more than one chorus in any BHNZ contest.

4. Minimum Size.

A chorus shall contain a minimum of 9 (nine) persons, excluding a director

5. Competing in Multiple Choruses

A member may participate, either as director or singer, with more than one chorus in any contest, providing the membership requirements in [Article I.B.1](#) above are met.

6. Convention Registration

Each and every member of a competing chorus, including the director, shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

7. Small Chorus Contest

A definition of a Small Chorus for the purposes of the BHNZ competition is a chorus that has no more than 20 members on the stage not including the Musical Director.

8. Combining Choruses

a. If two choruses choose to combine for the purposes of competition, they must meet the eligibility requirements (See [Article I. B.1](#)) and perform as members of one of the existing choruses only.

b. Where a chapter is unable to meet the requirements to enter the chorus competition (does not meet minimum number of members or parts required) they may combine with another chapter providing the eligibility requirements are met (See [Article I. B.1](#)). However, on written application, the requirement for Dual Membership may be waived at the discretion of the BHNZ Board.

9. Visitor Chorus

a. Request:

Under normal circumstances, choruses are expected to compete in their home associations. In exceptional circumstances, a non-BHNZ chorus may request to compete for score or for experience and evaluation at a BHNZ Competition. Should the request be made by a BHS chorus for the purpose of consideration for the BHS International Chorus Contest, then BHS rules apply.

b. Action:

Such requests by choruses to compete in an association other than their own must be unanimously approved by the BHNZ C&J Chairperson and President, and the home association's representative for contest and judging and President.

c. Deadline:

The request shall be received at least 60 days prior to the contest for which entry is desired.

d. A Visitor Chorus is ineligible to compete for any BHNZ awards.

C. Violations of Article I

1. Reporting Violation

Suspected violations of Article I shall be reported to the BHNZ C&J Chairperson within 10 days after discovery of the suspected violation and, in any event, no later than 30 days after the contest

conclusion. All such reports must be signed and should include all available documentation in order to assist with the investigation and decision.

2. Format

All notices and rulings with respect to [Article I](#) violations must be in writing (which may include electronic transmissions) and shall be deemed to have been given

- (a) upon personal delivery, or
- (b) if given by electronic transmission, when received and acknowledged. The party receiving an electronic notice or ruling shall immediately acknowledge receipt.

3. Effect of Violation

Quartets and choruses found in violation of [Article I.A](#) or [Article I.B](#), respectively, are ineligible and will not be included in the final official scoring summary for that contest. A revised scoring summary will be published if necessary.

ARTICLE II: CONTEST ENTRY PROCEDURES

A. BHNZ Contests and International Preliminary Contest

1. Contest Entry

Contest Entry Forms (physical or electronic) will be made available to all eligible contestants by the C&J Committee at least 45 days prior to the Regional Qualification Contests and 90 days prior to BHNZ National Contests.

2. Deadline

Completed contest entry forms must be received by the C&J Chairperson no later than 15 days prior to Regional Qualification Contests and 60 days prior to the BHNZ National Contests. However, the C&J Committee may, at their discretion, accept late entries with good cause no later than 7 days prior to Regional Contests and 15 days prior to the BHNZ National Contests.

B. BHNZ Quartet Contests

1. Contestant Qualification

a. Regional Qualification

Quartets wishing to qualify for BHNZ National Competition may do so by competing in a Regional Qualification Contest. Regional Contests are to be judged by a single panel of Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges (AGBJ) or Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) certified judges or a mixture of both BHS and AGBJ certified judges.

b. Video Assessment

If a quartet is unable to participate in Regional Qualification as described in [Article II.B.1.a](#) above, a video recording may be submitted for assessment. Video submissions shall commence immediately after the last Regional Qualification contest and will end on the following 31 May. Videos are to be submitted in accordance with the Guidelines for Video Assessment attached to these rules. (See [Appendix A](#) – Video Qualification attached) The video will be assessed by a panel of AGBJ certified judges. Under no circumstance shall a

quartet which competed in a Regional Qualification Contest and failed to qualify be permitted to attempt to qualify under this clause in the same year. Due to the nature of a video recording, scores will not be provided. Instead a “pass” “no pass” will be provided to participants.

c. Minimum Score

In all circumstances, to be eligible to compete, all quartets must have earned a minimum average score as determined by the BHNZ Board upon recommendation by the C&J Committee. The qualifying score is currently an average score of 55 or higher.

d. Scoring Pool

Quartets who earn the minimum score will be entered into the scoring pool from which the contestants in the BHNZ National Quartet Contests will be drawn. The 20 highest scoring quartets in the scoring pool (no more than 5 mixed quartets) will be invited to enter the competition.

2. Quartet Replacement

In the event that any eligible quartet withdraws or otherwise becomes unavailable, the next highest scoring eligible quartet shall be added from the scoring pool. No replacements will be made within 7 days of the contest.

3. Personnel Change in Qualifying Quartets

a. After qualifying for the BHNZ National contest as in [Article II. B.1](#) above, a quartet may replace up to one member and still be eligible to compete at the national contest. If two or more personnel changes should occur in a qualifying quartet between qualifying and the national contest, that quartet becomes ineligible to compete. BHNZ must be notified of the change in personnel so the Quartet Register can be updated.

C. BHNZ National Chorus Contests

1. Contest Qualification

Each chapter in good standing with the BHNZ is invited to send a representative chorus to the BHNZ national chorus contest provided eligibility requirements are met. (See [Article I. B.](#) above)

D. Copyright Clearance

1. Observance of Copyright Laws

All contestants are required to observe the copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements. Any contestant intending to compete at any BHS International competition will be required to comply with BHS Copyright rules (See Article II. G. in the [BHS Contest Rules](#)).

ARTICLE III: SCORING CATEGORIES

Each scoring judge awards a score from 1 to 100 for each song. All contestants will be judged in the three scoring categories:

A. Music

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. The judge adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. The judge judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. The judge adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

B. Performance

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. Singing

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.

ARTICLE IV: CONTEST JUDGES

A. Certification and Panel Requirements

Judges (scoring judges and contest administrators) are certified by the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges, through its Chairperson, in their respective categories in accordance with their qualifications to judge one of the three scoring categories or to serve as a contest administrator. It is the duty of the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee, through its Chairperson, to provide an official register of AGBJ certified and candidate scoring judges and contest administrators.

1. For BHNZ Regional Contests, a single panel of AGBJ Certified Judges shall be seated. The panel will include a Contest Administrator and one scoring judge from each category (Music, Singing and Performance). For clarity, a BHS certified judge is eligible to score a BHNZ Regional Contest, but it is not envisaged that this would occur.

2. For BHNZ National Competitions, at least a double panel of AGBJ and/or BHS Certified Judges (Contest Administrator, Music, Singing and Performance) will be seated. It is expected that AGBJ judges will be used primarily however one or more BHS judges may be requested from time to time as is deemed necessary.

B. Appointment of Judging Panels

The appointment of judging panels to all BHNZ Contests will be actioned through the BHNZ Contest and Judging Committee in accordance with AGBJ (and, if applicable, BHS) procedures for requesting

panels. Opportunity should be made available for AGBJ Judge Trainees and Candidates to practice score whenever possible.

ARTICLE V: TYPES OF CONTESTS

A. All Contests

1. Sessions

No single contest session should be longer than 20 contestants for quartets or 15 contestants for choruses. In unusual circumstances, an exception to this rule may be made by the BHNZ C & J Chairperson.

2. Song Repetition

a. Substantial Part Repeated: Within all rounds of a specific contest, a contestant may not repeat a song or a substantial part of any song. In the context of these rules, the term song may refer to a single song or a medley in which major portions of two or more songs are used. A parody of a song previously sung would be considered repeating a song.

b. Recommendation by Music Judge(s): A Music judge shall recommend forfeiture to the contest administrator if a contestant repeats a song or a substantial portion from one of its songs in another song. If there are two or more Music judges, the decision to forfeit must be unanimous.

c. Recommendation Unanimous: When the decision to forfeit is unanimous, the contest administrator shall record as zero the contestant's entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s).

d. Recommendation Not Unanimous: When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.

B. Regional Qualifying Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants will be judged on two different songs.

2. Results

Quartets achieving the qualifying score will be announced.

C. National Open and International Preliminary Quartet Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants will be judged on four different songs in two appearances (semi-finals and finals).

2. Elimination Round and Number in Finals

a. If there are more than seven contestants, the first appearance is an elimination round to reduce the number of quartets competing in the second or final round to no more than seven.

b. The Contest Administrator may increase the number of quartets competing in the finals in the case of a tie for the final slot, or if he judges that more quartets have a reasonable

chance of achieving the target score for BHS International Contest eligibility. [NOTE: Current target score is average of 76%]

3. Ranking and Awards

- a. After the finals round, ranking of quartets will be computed in the two separate contests from the combined scores obtained in both rounds. The top placed Open Quartet will be declared the BHNZ National Champion. Those quartets in the BHNZ International Prelims who reach the target score will be announced as International qualifiers.
- b. Medals will be presented to the top three quartets in the Open Contest.
- c. The quartet who achieves the highest score at or above the target score (presently 76%) in the BHNZ International Prelim contest will automatically qualify to compete and represent BHNZ at the next BHS International Quartet Contest.
- d. Additional quartets achieving the target score or above and wishing to be entered in the wild card pool for the next BHS International Quartet Contest may submit a performance video for consideration by the BHS through the BHNZ C & J Chairperson.

D. Senior, Youth and Novice Quartet Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Contestants will be judged on two different songs in one appearance (semi-final round)

2. Ranking and Awards

- a. Awards shall be presented to the top three quartets in each contest.

b. Senior Quartet

- (1) The highest placed senior quartet in the semi-final round shall be declared the BHNZ National Seniors Quartet Champion.
- (2) Special recognition shall be given to the competing quartet with the greatest number of cumulative years of age. Special recognition shall be given to the oldest individual participant.
- (3) The BHNZ National Seniors Quartet Champion automatically qualifies to participate in the following BHS International Seniors Quartet Contest in conjunction with the BHS Mid-Winter Convention. Should the champion be unable to attend, the second place quartet may submit a performance video for consideration by the BHS through the BHNZ C&J Chairperson. Any representative must meet the minimum standard of 61%. Only one BHNZ representative is eligible to attend.

c. Youth Barbershop Quartet Champions

- (1) The highest scoring Youth Barbershop quartet in the semi-final round shall be declared the BHNZ Youth Barbershop National Quartet Champion.
- (2) There is no longer any automatic qualification for the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest. Any Youth quartet wishing to represent BHNZ at the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest at the following BHS International Convention is urged to see the

BHS website at <https://www.barbershop.org/next-gen/varsity/varsity-quartets> for complete details on when and how to enter.

(3) A Youth Barbershop Quartet may compete in the BHNZ Open Quartet Contest and/or the International Prelim contest.

d. Novice Quartet

Based on the first round of competition, the highest ranking quartet who meets the eligibility requirements for a Novice Quartet (see [Article I. A. 5.](#) above) will be presented with the BHNZ Novice Quartet award.

e. Iraia Te Whaiti Award (Audience Favourite)

(1) The Iraia Te Whaiti Award will be determined by public vote.

(2) Voting will take place based on the semi-final round only.

(3) Voting papers will be distributed and collected by an appointed committee organised by the current BHNZ Quartet Champion.

(4) Verified results are to be given to the Contest Administrator for inclusion in the presentation ceremony.

(5) The quartet gaining the most votes will hold the trophy until the next BHNZ National Competition.

E. BHNZ Chorus Contests

1. Number of Songs Required

Choruses are judged on two different songs in one appearance.

2. Ranking and Awards

a. Awards shall be presented to the top three placed choruses in each category.

b. Open Chorus Contest

(1) The first place chorus will be declared the BHNZ National Chorus champion and be awarded the BHNZ Champion Chorus Trophy.

(2) Medals will be presented to the individual chorus members, the Musical Director plus one coach of each of the top three choruses, provided they attain the minimum standard average score set by the BHNZ Board in consultation with the BHNZ C & J Committee. The current minimum average score is 55%.

(3) The first place chorus will be eligible to petition through the BHNZ C&J Chairperson for an invitation to participate in the BHS International Chorus Contest. If an invitation is received, the chorus will be subject to the BHS eligibility rules for Affiliate organisations, as per the BHS C&J Contest Rules.

3. Small Chorus Contest

a. The highest ranked Small Chorus (See [Article I. B. 7](#) for eligibility) will be awarded the Manawatunes Trophy for the Champion Small Chorus.

b. Medals will be awarded to the top three Small Choruses.

4. Most Improved Chorus

a. The Most Improved Chorus Plaque will be presented to the chorus whose average score shows the greatest improvement from the previous BHNZ Chorus Contest.

b. Choruses that did not compete in the previous year's contest are not eligible for this award.

c. If two or more choruses tie for this award, each chorus will receive a certificate and will share the Most Improved Chorus Plaque for the year.

d. It should be noted that, if no chorus improves from the previous BHNZ Chorus Contest, the Most Improved Chorus Plaque will not be presented.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS

A. Official Scoring Summary

1. Contents

An official scoring summary will show the contest date and location, the scores for each song in each category for each eligible contestant, the total score for each eligible contestant, the names of the songs, and the names of the official panel members.

2. BHNZ Contests

For all BHNZ Contests an official scoring summary will be published by the contest administrator immediately following the announcement of winners and/or qualifiers. A scoring summary for eliminated quartets may be published by the contest administrator following the conclusion of the elimination round.

ARTICLE VII: RANKING OF CONTESTANTS

A. Ranking

Contestants will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the judging panel.

B. Scores

1. Reporting After Performance

The judges will report their scores to the contest administrator immediately following each contestant's performance.

2. Statistical Variances

During each contest round the contest administrator will notify each category if any statistical variances exist (where one score is statistically higher or lower than the rest of the panel for a song). The judges in that category will review their notes and all scores provided by the panel for either song in the performance. At that time, the judges in that category can change their scores for either song or leave them stand. The contest administrator will make any changes indicated and thereafter the scores are official. (See Position Paper IX. Statistical Variances in the BHS Contest and Judging Handbook for more details).

C. Ties

1. First Place Ties

A tie for first place will be broken by ranking the contestants according to their overall scores in the Singing category or, only if that does not break the tie, according to their overall scores in the Music category. If a tie still exists, the tie will stand.

2. Other Than First Place

Except for first-place ties, tie scores will not be broken, and the official scoring summary will list the tied contestants in rank order in accordance with the tie breaking formula.

3. Medals

When a tie situation occurs, any medal(s) specified in [Article V](#) that immediately follow(s) the tie ranking will not be awarded e.g. With a tie for 2nd medals are awarded to 1, 2, 2.

D. Ineligibility/Disqualification

1. Re-ranking

In the event a contestant is declared ineligible or disqualified for any rule violation after the results are announced or published, their rank order shall be filled by the next ranked contestant and a revised official scoring summary will be published accordingly. All remaining lower-ranked contestants will have their rank order adjusted accordingly.

2. Return and Redistribution of Medals and Awards

If the disqualified or ineligible contestant was given a medal or other award as one of the top-ranked competitors in a contest, all members of the disqualified quartet or chorus must return the awards to BHNZ for award to the appropriate contestant.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF APPEARANCE

A. Contestants' Order of Appearance (OOA)

1. Draw for Singing Order; Excused Absence

The order of appearance will be assigned by random draw. Contestants will sing in the order in which their names are drawn. However, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the contestant the contest administrator or the BHNZ C & J Chairperson may excuse an appearance other than in assigned order.

a. During contest: The contest administrator will determine whether to give an excused contestant the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

b. Prior to the contest: The BHNZ C & J Chairperson may equitably determine a modification to the order of appearance for reasons beyond the control of the contestants.

B. Unexcused Absence

Any contestant, not excused, that fails to perform in its assigned order of appearance will be penalized. The contest administrator will assess a penalty of five points per scoring judge. A penalized contestant will have the opportunity to appear after all other contestants in that contest session.

C. OOA In Case of Absences by Multiple Contestants

If there are two or more excused or penalized contestants, their order of appearance will be determined by the contest administrator.

D. Failure to Appear During Round

Any contestant that fails to appear in any round will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round in that contest.

E. Request to Sing First in BHNZ Chorus Contest

1. Written Request Prior To Draw

A chorus participating in the chorus contest may request in writing to the BHNZ C & J Chairperson that it be permitted to sing at the beginning of the contest. Such a request must be made and received prior to the draw being made.

2. Multiple Requests

If more than one chorus requests to sing at the beginning of the contest, an initial drawing will be held among those choruses to determine the order in which those choruses will sing at the beginning of the contest.

ARTICLE IX: SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS

A. Songs

1. Barbershop Style

All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style. [See style definition in Chapter 2 of the [BHS Contest and Judging Handbook](#).] A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style.

a. Jurisdiction, Adjudication and Penalties: Songs not consistent with the barbershop style will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s). Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Presentation judge(s). Violation of the provision relating to patriotic or religious intent will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Presentation judges(s) only.

2. Unaccompanied

Songs must be sung without any kind of musical accompaniment and without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion. The latter provision applies to both the entire performance and each individual song. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judges(s).

3. Chorus Subunits

In chorus contest performances of songs, selected use of a soloist, duet, trio or quartet is acceptable as long as it is brief and appropriate. At no time should the musical texture exceed four parts. The spoken word, brief and appropriate, is not considered an additional "part" in this context.

Compliance with this provision will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s).

B. Copyright Compliance

Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs for contest. Violations of this article relating to copyright law compliance are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the BHNZ C & J Chairperson.

ARTICLE X: SOUND EQUIPMENT AND STAGE SETTING

A. Equipment

1. Provision and Operation; Monitor Speakers Permitted

The best possible sound equipment will be provided, if needed, by hosts of convention/contests. Monitor speakers are permitted. Sound equipment should be operated by a competent operator.

2. Testing and Approval

The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested under the supervision of the contest administrator. The contest will not start until the contest administrator has given his approval.

B. Restrictions and Exception

1. Own Equipment

Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices.

2. Offstage Use of House System

Contestants may not make offstage use of the house sound system.

3. Recorded Music or Spoken Word; Electronic Enhancement

Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of recorded music (including singing) and/or recordings of the spoken word. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of technology to enhance the performance electronically.

4. Electronic Pitch and Brief Effects

Contestants may use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited, brief, and relevant sound effects.

C. Jurisdiction and Penalties

Violations of Article X are subject to penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Singing judges(s).

ARTICLE XI: STAGING

A. Restrictions

1. Non-Members

Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance. Violation of this rule in contest will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified. (See [Article I](#) for membership eligibility/violations.)

2. Bad Taste

Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar, or otherwise not in good taste will not be allowed. In addition to adjudication by the Presentation judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Contest Administrator per [Article XIV. A. 1. c.](#)

B. Jurisdiction and Adjudication

The Presentation judge(s) will have jurisdiction over issues of staging. (See the Presentation category description in the Contest and Judging Handbook for a discussion of unacceptable staging.) Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Presentation judge(s).

C. BHNZ Chorus Contest

1. Props

a. Restrictions: If props and/or stage enhancements are to be used, they must be simple enough that at most two men can carry and set them up, and they must be freestanding.

(1) Nothing can be attached to or leaned against the riser (back) safety rails.

(2) No extensions to the end risers are permitted.

(3) At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers.

(4) No props or stage enhancements can be used that may contravene local fire and safety codes (open flame, fireworks, open water other than in a glass or pitcher, etc.)

b. Penalty: Violations of the preceding will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (150 points from the composite score earned by the performance). The stage crew, with the concurrence of the panel Chairperson, will make this determination.

c. Financial liability

(1) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that damages microphones and/or lights will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHNZ for the replacement in kind of the damaged equipment.

(2) Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that results in alteration to the condition of the stage and/or house and requires additional labour to rectify the stage and/or house to its pre-performance condition will result in the chorus or quartet being held financially responsible to BHNZ for the total cost of the labour incurred.

2. Clean-up

a. Restrictions: Confetti and similar small material that requires extensive clean-up is banned from use in both chorus and quartet contests. Other materials which are difficult to clean-up (requiring mops, brooms, vacuum cleaners, etc.) are strongly discouraged from the stage.

b. Penalty: Any clean-up longer than 60 seconds will result in a penalty of five points per song per scoring judge (60 points from the composite score earned by the performance). This does not include the pick-up of coats, tables, vests, etc., that do not require further cleaning. Time will begin from the start of the clean-up effort and kept by the stage crew,

with the concurrence of the panel Chairperson. At no time are competitors allowed behind the risers during clean-up.

ARTICLE XII: NON-SINGING COMMENT/DIALOGUE

A. Spoken comments

Non-singing dialogue is generally not a part of a contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted more clearly to establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.

B. Adjudication

Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Presentation judge(s).

ARTICLE XIII: PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

A. Forfeiture

A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. Forfeiture or any penalty is appropriate only when specifically provided for in these rules.

B. Inclusion in Official Scoring Summary

Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.

C. No Public Announcement

There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture.

ARTICLE XIV: OPERATION OF CONTEST

A. Contest Administrator

1. Responsibility and Authority

a. Authority for Contest Operation: Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are determined, the Contest Administrator is completely in charge of the operation of the contest.

b. Contest Environment: The Contest Administrator is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants. Action on environmental issues will consider contestants, audience, and panel, in that order of priority.

c. Stopping Performance and Rescheduling

(1) Sole Authority: The Contest Administrator alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging, and reschedule part or all of the performance later in the contest.

(2) Repeat Performance: At his sole discretion, the Contest Administrator may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest.

(3) Cancellation and Rescheduling: If the Contest Administrator must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round and/or contest will be rescheduled by the Contest Administrator

in conjunction with the appropriate administrative body supervising the contest. In making these decisions, the Contest Administrator will consult with scoring judges as appropriate.

B. Announcements

Announcement of the results of the contest will be the responsibility of the Contest Administrator and the BHNZ Contest & Judging Sub Committee Chairperson.

APPENDIX A

GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO ASSESSMENT TO QUALIFY FOR THE BHNZ NATIONAL QUARTET COMPETITION

1. Deadline - All videos for assessment must be submitted to the Contest & Judging Committee designee specified below in accordance with [Article II.B.1.b](#) of the BHNZ Contest Rules. Late submissions will be at the discretion of the C & J Chairperson.
2. Requirements
 - a. The recording is to be made in front of a live audience. It may be done at a regular chorus rehearsal night or any suitable gathering.
 - b. The performance shall include an emcee introduction, a walk on, the performance of two songs and a walk off.
 - c. To ensure an accurate assessment, it is in the competitor's interest to provide a video of the highest quality possible. It is suggested that:
 - (1) The camera be mounted on a tripod – no panning, zooming or other effects
 - (2) That a neutral background be used with good lighting
 - (3) A good quality, stand-mounted microphone be used in lieu of the built-in camera mic
 - (4) The equipment be tested prior to recording the performance to be assessed
 - d. Only one take is permitted for each quartet (as would be the case in actual competition).
 - e. Video submissions are to be sent to the Contest & Judging Committee's designee listed below. The recorded performance may either be submitted by email in a suitable computer viewable format (e.g. MP4, MOV or WAV) or uploaded to YouTube with accessible links provided. Videos submitted are to be made without enhancement of any kind.
 - f. The written note/email accompanying the recording must include the quartet name and list quartet members by part.
3. Costs - All costs associated with this process are the responsibility of the quartet.
4. Submission details are to be sent to:

Contest Administrator
Henri Hunkin-Tagaloa
Henrietta.hunkin@gmail.com
021 130 4282