

2018 Regional Competitions

Quartet Competitor Information



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NOTES OF INTEREST

- Starting in 2017, members may now compete in up to TWO different quartets during the same regional contest, as long as they are in different competition divisions (e.g., one quartet in the International Division and one in the Open Division). No more than two members per quartet may compete in the second quartet in the same regional contest. A quartet consists of four people. Only the four quartet members may appear on stage during a competition performance.
- Open Division competitors are placed in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.
- Competitors disqualified from any competition, in any division, will not receive scoresheets.
- Performance time for International Division (including Evaluation Only) is not to exceed seven minutes, while performance time for Open Division is not to exceed 10 minutes.
- The International Board of Directors continues to reaffirm the policy requiring that only copyright music is sung at the regional competitions. By signing the entry form, quartets warrant they have obtained appropriate clearance permission for the arrangements they plan to sing.
- For a complete explanation of the requirements and category weights of each of the four judging categories, along with the Open Division elements, refer to the Judging Category Description Book.
- If you have questions specific to your regional convention, please contact your events coordinator or chair of the regional convention.
- If you have questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Competition Services at international headquarters.

CONTACTING SWEET ADELINES

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Important Documents

- **[2018 Entry Form:](#)** (need)
[Registering Online](#) is the quickest, most convenient way to register for competition. If you choose, you may mail or fax your completed entry form to Sweet Adelines International. You can print a hard copy of the [competition entry form here](#). (Change entry form)
- **[2018 Regional Dates and Deadlines:](#)**
This chart lists important dates for your competition, including the date you can first register online, the date the order of appearance is drawn and the date of the competition (available in region numerical order and contest date order). **Please note the 60-day entry submission deadline.** Additional mailings from your region are sent closer to the competition date in regards to housing and convention registration deadlines.
- **[2018 Open Division Cue Sheet:](#)** (need)
A copy of this form **must** be turned into the region's competition coordinator at the briefing.
- **[Regional Quartet Competition Timetable:](#)** (need)
A timetable of important dates, such as mailings and deadlines, in terms of how many days they occur before or after competition.
- **[Regional Competition Eligibility Requirements:](#)**
Information for choruses/quartets to determine eligibility for regional competition.
- **[Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording](#)**
- **[Criteria for Public Performance:](#)**
Criteria used in determining if a prospective or established chorus may perform in public.
- **[Evaluating Your Contest Performance:](#)**
An informative guide on how you and the judges evaluate your contest performance.
- **[Performance Level Guidelines:](#)**
These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your scoresheet comments.
- **[Entertainment Package Guidelines:](#)**
These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your Open Division scoresheet comments.
- **[Copyright Matters Q&A:](#)**
Instructions addressing copyright issues; an informative guide on copyrights/arrangements of music.
- **[Single-Copy Sheet Music:](#)** (need)
A list of single-copy sheet music available from International Sales.

- [Competition Handbook: \(need\)](#)
Sweet Adelines International's [Competition Handbook](#) explains official rules and regulations for all competitions. The handbook is also available through International Sales.
- [Open Division FAQ Sheet \(need\)](#)
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Entering the 2018 Competition

Rules to Enter:

- In order to compete, the quartet name and personnel must be registered with Sweet Adelines International.
- Members must be in good standing with their chapter(s) and region(s) and current on international per capita fees and regional assessment dues by the regional entry deadline.
- New quartets registering after January 15 will be charged an additional **\$50.00** processing fee.
- **Your competition entry will not be processed until the quartet registration is complete.**
- Refer to the [Quartet Handbook](#) and [Competition Handbook](#) for a complete listing of competition policies and procedures. (Update links to 2018)

Entry Fee:

- Quartet Entry: \$100.00 (up to 60 days prior to competition)

Late Fee:

- Quartet Late Fee: \$100.00 in addition to standard registration fees (59-45 days prior to competition)
- Entries received after 45 days prior to contest are not processed.

Entry Deadline:

- Entries **MUST** be received at international headquarters by the entry deadline. Refer to the 2018 Regional Dates and Deadlines to view your region's schedule.

Sending in Your Entry Form:

- Competition entries are accepted on the Sweet Adelines International website beginning December 9, 2016. (date change) *Online registration is limited to the chorus president, director, or treasurer on file at headquarters; all must be in good standing.*
- Entries may also be printed and mailed or faxed to Sweet Adelines International. Both the entry fee and completed form must be received by international headquarters no later than 60 days prior to regional competition to avoid late fees. Allow ample time for the materials to be processed through the postal system.
- **Be sure to include your region number and quartet ID on the entry form.**
- Submitting your entry late affects your order of appearance. Entries received during the late period (59-45 days before competition) will not appear in the initial order of appearance drawing, but instead in a second drawing placing your quartet at the beginning of your chosen division of the competition.
- All mailed entry forms should be addressed:
Sweet Adelines International
c/o Competition Services
9110 S. Toledo Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74137
- NOTE: Please do not mail an entry that has already been processed online or faxed; this could result in duplicate charges.

Paying for Your Entry:

- Include payment in U.S. currency only. You can pay by check (mail only), Visa, MasterCard or Discover (online).

Withdrawing Your Entry:

- Anyone withdrawing must submit a written notification to international headquarters via email to [Competition Services](#).
- Competition entry fees are non-refundable.

Competition Options

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

- International Division is the traditional competition option.
- Contestants in the International Division should prepare to sing two separate competition songs or medleys.
- International Division serves as qualifier for international quartet semifinals and Harmony Classic competitions.
- Competitors have seven minutes to sing their two contest songs.
- Contestants may choose to perform for placement or evaluation within the International Division.

Performing for Evaluation Only:

- The International Board of Directors provides that all quartets, current or past international champions, or current international semifinalists(placing 2-15), may perform in a regional competition for Evaluation Only or Open Division. This should be indicated on the entry form.

OPEN DIVISION

- Open Division is an evaluative competition option. It is **NOT** a qualifier for the international quartet semifinals competitions.
- Contestants in the Open Division should prepare to sing one competition song performed as part of the entertainment package.
- Only level scores are given.
- Level scores are posted in performance order. They are posted alongside the International Division scores.
- Competitors have 10 minutes to complete their Open Division package.
- Contestants choosing to compete in the Open Division shall present an entertainment package that includes:
 1. One song or medley appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines International competition;
 2. At least one other song; and
 3. Emcee material

EVALUATION OR OPEN DIVISION BY VIDEO RECORDING

- The regional competition policies give choruses the options of evaluation through Evaluation Only or Open Division by video recording. *Quartets choosing these options are required to pay the competition entry fee.*
- The official panel evaluates the video recordings after viewing the level DVD, prior to judging the contest.
- Refer to Section VI of the [Competition Handbook](#) for complete guidelines. See also [Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording](#).

Competition Specifics

PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

- The competing quartet indicates on the entry form its desire to perform in the Open Division, International Division (placement) or Evaluation Only. *The full entry fee is required even when performing for Evaluation Only and Open Division.*
- Quartets performing for Evaluation Only are automatically part of the drawing for first appearance.
- Each judge writes comments on her category scoresheets and indicates a level score for each song. **No numerical score or total score is given for Evaluation Only or Open Division.**
- Level scores for Evaluation Only performances are considered confidential and are not published.
- Quartets competing for Evaluation Only are **not** eligible for awards presented by the international organization or for regional awards determined by total score or final placement.
- Open Division competitors will be in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.
- Competitors may not change from International Division to Open Division (or vice versa) after the final order of appearance has been conducted at headquarters.

MIC-TESTING

A quartet invited to mic-test may also perform for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest. Mic-testers choosing to perform for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest *must complete the entry form and pay the entry fee.*

Qualifying for International

The 2018 Regional Quartet Champions are eligible to compete in the 2018 International Quartet Competitions held October 15-20, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Eligibility

- If the first place quartet withdraws from international competition, the second place quartet is invited. If the second place quartet is a wildcard or declines, an invitation is not extended to other placements.

Wildcards

- The wildcard quartet pool is not announced until after all the regional contests are complete. Ten wildcard quartets are chosen from the highest scoring of all non first place quartets.

AUDIENCE CHOICE/BRAVO

Only competitors competing in Open Division are eligible for the Audience Choice Award.

- Under the direction of the regional awards chair, and prior to the start of the regional chorus competition sessions, a maximum of 50 members of the audience are randomly selected to determine the Audience Choice Award recipients in their respective sessions. No criteria for this determination are established except the personal preference of the individual audience member. (Audience members participating in this process must be present for all eligible competitors in their respective sessions.) The quartet receiving the highest number of audience votes wins the Audience Choice Award.
- The Bravo Award is given if there is only one qualifying Open Division quartet competing.
- Eligibility for either award is confined to the quartets competing in the Open Division in the regional chorus contest that are not competing in the current year's International semifinals.
- Ribbons, purchased from International Sales, may be presented to all competing members of the winning quartet.
- Ribbons for new or noncompeting members, or replacements for lost ribbons, may be purchased by the member through International Sales.

- Certificates are presented to all competing members of the winning quartet for either award.

PENALTIES SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION

- Time penalty: 30 seconds over or more results in disqualification.
- Competition songs not sung primarily in English.
- Official song of the Corporation.
- Religious or patriotic songs. (Does not apply to non-competition songs.)
- Performance included spoken material and/or noise making devices. (Does not apply to non-competition songs.)
- Throwing object(s) into audience or judging pit from the competition stage.
- Crowns worn by contestant.
- Condition of stage.
- Conduct of contestants, including director, deemed prejudicial to the welfare of the organization.
- Delay of contest.
- Quartet competition performance is limited to the four officially registered members of the quartet.
- Non-singing member, in addition to director, on stage.
- Deviation from submitted prepared program.

If a competitor is disqualified, they do not receive scoresheets and are not eligible for the Audience Choice or Bravo Award.

For more information on Open Division, please visit our [website](#).

Online Registration Opens:

December 1, 2017 – Region 10

December 8, 2017 – Regions 11, 14, 25

December 29, 2017 – Regions 1, 4, 8, 9, 19

January 5, 2018 – Regions 3, 6, 16, 21

January 12, 2018 – Regions 2, 5, 13

January 19, 2018 – Regions 12, 26, 35

January 26, 2018 – Regions 31, 32

February 2, 2018 – Regions 15, 17, 34