

REGIONAL OPEN DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

Quartets and choruses participating in Regional Competitions may choose the option of performing in the Open Division. A performance in the Open Division at regional competitions consists of a maximum 10-minute package.

Each open division package must include a minimum of one contest song, which will be judged by prescribed contest standards. At least one other song must be included in the performance. Emcee work and special material may be included in the package.

Contestants performing in the Open Division must prepare a complete list of all songs and spoken material that will be included in the package, so that the Official Judging Panel is aware of which song is to be judged as contest material.

SCORING

Each judge scores the contest song included in the package in accordance with the requirements of her respective category. Each judge will award a level for the contest song.

In addition, each judge will also award a level for the complete package. In awarding this score, judges consider:

- Musicality
- Unity
- Theme/Script/Emcee/Microphone Technique
- Creativity
- Communication

Scoresheet comments are written for both the contest song and for the other song(s) and material included as part of the Open Division package.

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A PACKAGE FOR THE REGIONAL OPEN DIVISION

Each performance will be a maximum of 10 minutes and includes one contest song, any emcee material, and at least one other song. The three to seven (3 to 7) minute timing requirement for the contest song will be suspended. Contestants need to allow for applause when timing the package. The following guidelines should be followed in preparing the Entertainment Package portion of the competition performance:

1. All singing must display competence in vocal skills, musical understanding, and lyrical delivery.
2. Spoken and special material should be congruent with the theme and script and be acceptable for family audiences.
3. The emcee(s) should display preparation, confidence, poise, ease, and a sense of appropriate timing in presentation and in the use of the microphone.

4. The planning of the package should reflect creativity in both its content and delivery. Merely singing three competition-type songs and some limited spoken material, for instance, would demonstrate little imaginative preparation.
5. For the panel to know which song is to be judged as a contest song, each contestant must submit a performance outline at the competition briefing.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING THE REGIONAL OPEN DIVISION PACKAGE

Each judge will score the contest song of the package in accordance with the requirements for her respective category and award a level for the contest song.

Each judge will also award a level for the complete package. In awarding the score for the overall performance, judges will consider:

1. **Musicality:** Does the quartet or chorus sing with barbershop skill, *i.e.* good vocal production, in tune, and with appropriate tempos and word delivery?
2. **Unity:** Does the quartet or chorus perform as a unit with attention to energy and blend?
3. **Theme/Script/Emcee/Microphone Technique:** Does the presentation demonstrate a unified message? Is the scripted material suitable to the audience and the performer? Does the emcee(s) deliver the spoken material well and display effective use of the microphone?
4. **Creativity:** Does the quartet or chorus present a 10-minute package that exhibits imaginative preparation and execution?
5. **Communication:** Does the quartet or chorus demonstrate their commitment to audience rapport and reaction?

Scoresheet comments are written for the contest song and for the other song(s) and spoken material included within the package.