

GUIDELINES – REGION 11 NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST

The Novice Quartet Contest is held for the purpose of encouraging Quartet participation by providing an opportunity to obtain competing and performing experience and evaluation.

ALL CONTESTANTS – PLEASE READ CONTEST RULES COMPLETELY.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE RULES

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants will sing two songs or medleys. Time spent singing both songs shall not be less than 3 minutes or more than 7 minutes. Performance of two barbershop arrangements is strongly encouraged.
2. Only the four quartet members may be on stage at any time. A quartet may be disqualified if a 5th person appears on stage (either before or during a contestant's performance).
3. All quartets will be given judges' written comments with general levels (C, C+, B, etc.)
4. Although any quartet may enter, only those classified as NOVICE will be considered part of the competition and be eligible for the Novice Quartet Championship. A Novice Quartet is defined as one: **"in which two (2) or more of its members have NEVER competed in ANY internationally sanctioned Regional Quartet Competition."** Novice Competitions are not internationally sanctioned.
5. **A novice is defined as a member of Sweet Adelines International who has never competed in a quartet at the regional level in ANY region, in ANY voice part.**
6. The contest will be limited to 20 Novice Quartets. Late entries will not be accepted, and there will not be a waiting list. The names of competing Novice Quartets will be drawn first. If there are fewer than 20 Novice Quartets, the remaining places will be filled with "for evaluation only" quartets based on the date that their entry forms were received.
7. If a singer is competing in more than one Novice Quartet, there will be at least one quartet between entries with duplicate participants. Any Novice quartet can request to be first in the contest.
8. Draw for Order of Appearance will be held within 7 days after the Entry deadline by the **Novice Contest Registrar** and the **Education Coordinator** (or her designee). Quartets will be notified by email of the order of appearance.
9. Any Novice Quartet that has a personnel change after entering must notify the **Novice Contest Registrar** or the **Education Coordinator** immediately. Failure to notify may result in disqualification from the competition.
10. Novice Quartets that find it necessary to withdraw must notify the **Novice Contest Registrar** or the **Education Coordinator** immediately so that the traffic pattern and program can be adjusted accordingly.

OTHER DETAILS TO KNOW

1. Any quartet is eligible to compete/perform, providing all of its members are in good standing with their chapters, their region, and the International organization, and must be registered attendees at Region 11's Summer Sizzler.
2. Novice Quartets need not be officially registered as a quartet with Sweet Adelines International in order to compete.
3. Winners of the Novice Quartet Contest will be invited to be mic testers at next year's competition. In the event they are unable to perform, the **Education Coordinator** is responsible for appointing a mic testing quartet. All members of the mic testing quartet must be in good standing with their chapters, their region, and the International organization, and must be registered attendees at Region 11's Summer Sizzler.
4. Winning Novice Quartets from previous Novice Competitions are not eligible to compete unless two (2) or more of the original members have been replaced.

AWARDS

1. "For Evaluation Only" Novice Quartets are not eligible for contest Top 5 placement awards.
2. The "LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU" award is presented to the most entertaining Novice Quartet (both competing and evaluation Quartets are eligible). This award is in addition to the regular Top 5 placements for the Novice Quartets. This award is based on the votes of 50 randomly selected NON-COMPETING members of the audience.

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Novice Quartet Competitions are held under the supervision of the Education Coordinator, and Novice Quartet Coordinator. Selection of judging and panel personnel is the responsibility of the Education Coordinator.

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