



Proposal to Remove the Bagley Rule for Quartet Finals Qualification

In previous years, our district held two separate conventions: one for the District Quartet Championship and one for International Quartet Qualification. Under that structure, the Bagley Rule—which allowed all district quartets to advance to the finals if 13 or fewer were registered—functioned as intended.

However, we now operate with a *single* convention where both contests take place in the same session. This change creates complications the original rule never accounted for.

Last year, we had:

- 13 non-champion quartets (District Championship)
- 2 past champion quartets (International Qualifier)
- 1 out-of-district quartet (International Qualifier)

Although the combined field totaled 16, the Bagley Rule required all 13 district quartets to advance, resulting in **16 finalists**. This significantly extended the Saturday finals and delayed the judges' evaluation sessions well into the evening.

To prevent repeat situations and ensure a fair, efficient, and manageable contest, the board is proposing to remove the Bagley Rule. Under the proposed system, **the top 10 non-champion quartets** will advance to the finals, with the **11th-place quartet serving as the mic testers**.

The only exception: If any past champion and/or out-of-district quartets score within three points of the society's target score in the semi-finals they must be included in the finals, even if this creates more than 10 finalists. (In 2026 the target score for quartets is 81, so any quartet scoring 78 or above in the semi-finals would be in the finals).

This change aligns our process with the modern contest structure and provides a smoother, more predictable experience for competitors, judges, and attendees.