



Just thought you might want an update on the BHS "Youth" contests at the District and International levels. **These rules have nothing to do with any Illinois District "Youth" Contests.** The BHS BOD, working with suggestions made by the International Youth Committee, headed by Joe Cerutti, recently voted to completely change the method of qualification for the International Youth Quartet Contest (now Contests). The now past method was to continue to conduct International "Collegiate/Youth" Pre-Lims at each of our 17 Districts where our "Collegiate/Youth Quartets" would qualify by score. Additional wild cards would be included by the BHS to reach a total of 30 quartets. The only points that now remain in the rules are the number of quartets and the most recent age limits.

The new rules have now been further changed as follows: (I don't have the official language of the most recent changes, but here are the changes as I currently understand them)

1. The "International Youth Pre-Lim" contests, held at all Districts, have now be eliminated all together.
2. All "Youth" quartets wanting to enter the International Youth Contests, held at the Mid-Winter Conventions, must now qualify by submitting a video of their 2 contest numbers to a committee at the BHS. No other options.
3. The video's will be divided into the 4 new categories; Novice Junior, Experienced Junior, Novice Varsity, and Experienced Varsity. Junior = all members under 19 years old. Varsity = 19 years old to under 26 (however, a Varsity Quartet may have up to 3 members under 19. Age limits are as of the date of the International Youth Contests (at Mid-Winter, usually in January).
4. A Youth Quartet may not be in more than one of the above 4 categories.
5. Affiliate Youth Quartets may also submit videos.
6. The BHS committee will select a fixed number of quartets from each of the 4 categories to compete in the International Youth Contests (the number of qualifiers differ among the categories). All or most of those non-qualifying youth quartets submitting tapes will be invited to participate in a youth quartet festival to also be held at the Mid-Winter Conventions.
7. At the International Youth Contests, a winner for each of the 4 categories and an overall Youth Quartet Champion will be determined, I believe, by score.