



This year, we have massive changes to our former "Collegiate Quartet Contest" (YBQC) to now include not only High School quartets, but even nursery school quartets (ages under 26 with no lower limit), we need to rethink our Youth contest policy. The easy, and I think best, way is to simply expand our Fall convention and have the Youth International Quartet Prelim also be our District Contest for all ages. We should re-define our contest titles and crown a District "Junior Youth Quartet Champion" by simply including all quartets where all members are under 19 years old on the date of the next International Youth Quartet Contest. And, crown a "District Varsity Champion" again following the international definition (One or more members over the age of 18 and all under 26 on the date of the next International Youth Contest).

All entries must still be made through the International Office at least 30 days prior to the Pre-Lim convention and a \$40 fee paid to International. We should continue to comp our YBQC quartets and one coach for each quartet to help enable them to attend our convention. If a quartet is competing OOD, it is up to that District as to whether or not they will comp a YBQC quartet competing in their contest OOD.

Starting this year, a Youth Quartet can no longer compete in both the International Youth Quartet Contest and also qualify and compete in the International Quartet Contest at International. They may compete in both Pre-Lims at the District level and if they qualify for both, must choose one or the other, but not both.

The newly published YBQC Rules also state that the winning District Youth Quartet, competing in the District's Youth International Pre-Lim contest must score at least 61% (732 points) to be invited to the YBQC at International. However, if the highest scoring Youth Quartet scores less than the target score, they will still be invited to "participate" in "Special Events" at the international convention, but will not compete in the International YBQC. We could have a high scoring year where our 2nd place or lower Youth Quartets score 73.0 or higher (876 for a double panel). In these cases, those 2nd place and lower quartets will be placed on the Wild Card list. The highest scoring quartets on the list will be chosen to fill the remaining YBQC slots as wild cards after the District representatives are chosen. A total of 30 contestants will compete in the International Youth Contest at the July Internationals.

There are several ways a Youth Quartet can be put on the wild card list:

1. Compete in their District International Youth Pre-Lim as explained above (2nd place or lower with a min score of 73%).
2. Compete "Out of District" for score only in another District (min score of 73%).
3. Participate in a new "video submission contest" where one representative to the YBQC will be chosen.

In all cases, all entries to the YBQC Pre-Lims must be made through the International Office and an entry fee of \$40 per quartet paid to International. And, they must be made at least 30 days prior to the District Contest date.



My opinion, after much thought, is that we should continue to support Spring "Youth" contests, under YIH, where they exist regionally under the direction of our VP YIH. And, should change our District High School Contest to the Fall Convention as described above and crown our District Junior Quartet Champion there (all members under 19 at the time of the next International Youth Contest). And, continue to crown our District College Champion, but change the name to the District Varsity Quartet Champion and continue to crown that winner in the Fall. This would officially move the last of our "Official" District contests to the Fall under my direction as VP C&J.

The newly published YBQC Rules are available on the BHS web-site.

FYI - I have been, and will continue to be, a judge at the Huntley contests each Spring. Bob Squires, Jay Gialombardo, Joe Sullivan, Ray Schwarzkopf, and others have helped judge this contest over the years.

Dave Cowin, VP C&J
Cell Phone: 630-308-2120
Email: dcowin@comcast.net