

## **YSIH NZ guidance for schools on song contestability**

### **April 2024**

Many, but not all, published barbershop arrangements are suitable for use in the YSIH schools regional and national contests.

Here is a checklist to ensure that arrangements are OK:

1. Four part harmony, with no instrumental accompaniment.
2. The melody is mostly in an inside voice part.
3. Lyrics (as opposed to non-word syllables or 'oo's) are in all four parts for a substantial portion of the song.
4. Barbershop texture for a substantial portion of the song (i.e. same rhythm in all parts, or call-and-response).
5. Barbershop chord language - standard for nearly all published arrangements.

A song that has one chorus that meets the guidelines and another that does not will still be accepted. The key is that there is enough to assess the group's skills at singing "barbershop".

If students enter in a standard non-schools barbershop contest (e.g. Sweet Adelines or Barbershop Harmony events), there are some extra requirements:

1. Song must not be primarily religious or patriotic
2. A stricter view on points 2 to 5
3. Must have characteristic chord progressions.