

We ask your close attention to the following rules. Everything in this section is considered binding for all groups, and penalties have been attached for violation of the various rules. Any questions concerning the interpretation of these rules must be clarified by contacting the contest director prior to the day of the contest.

1. This competition is by the classification based on school enrollment grades 9-12 and excluding vocational students who attend a separate vocational school. Classification is as follows:
Class C- 849 or less Class B- 850 to 1349 Class A- 1350 or more
**If there is a class with less than 3 or a class with more than 5, a realignment of the classes will take place.
**Community groups will be permitted to compete, but will compete in Class A.
2. All performers must be bonafide students of the participating high school as attested to by the principal on the certification form.
3. The director must be a bonafide music educator of the participating school.
4. Choirs are free to present any type of performance they wish. There is no minimum number of songs a group must perform. Music need not be provided for the adjudicators.
5. Directors may be on stage with the choir, may direct, play the piano, if they wish, but may not sing any time during the performance.
6. Any type of live instrumental accompaniment (not taped) may be used. This is judged as an integral part of the group's performance. Synthesizer sequencing is allowed. Instrumental groups must consist of students, with the exception of one adult on either piano or drums excluding the director. Tape accompaniment will be allowed in the Middle School Division. However, if a middle school uses tape accompaniment, they will receive a 6 from each judge in that category. All adult bands may be permitted, but must have gained permission before hand and that group will not qualify for the best band award.
7. One, and only one member of the stage crew, performing group person may be on the stage prior to the official announce of the group by the contest emcee to assist with the contest stage crew in presetting the PHS provided equipment. The director may also be on stage at this time. Instrumentalists may come on stage to tune. No taping of the stage floor is permitted unless it is done during your allotted time of 25 minutes and removed within that time. The center and quarter pints of the stage will already be clearly indicated.
8. Choirs are allotted 25 minutes on the performing stage. This includes set-up, performance and tear down/clearing the performance area. Time begins as soon as any member of the performing group steps onto the stage and crosses the performance line. It will stop when the stage is set and the announcement of your Show Choir is being made by the Emcee. Timing will begin again when any part of the performance begins, although no one may have stepped onto the stage. Official timing ends when the last member of the group, including stage crew and director, steps off the stage and all equipment have exited the stage. Adults may help setup and tear down but cannot be on the stage or help during the show.
Penalty: 5 points per thirty seconds if time limit is exceeded
9. Special lighting will be granted if presented to the contest chairman a month before the event date, and is within the ability of the provided equipment.
10. The use of fire on the stage, in any form is strictly forbidden for the safety of performers and audience.
11. Special effects that obstruct the effective performance of the following groups, as determined by a contest official, are forbidden.
12. Any damage or destruction done to any facilities or equipment by any student will result in that student's performing group being disqualified from the contest and barred from further Poca Invitationals for a period of three years.
13. Flash pictures and audio and video tape recordings are strictly prohibited. Pictures without flash are permitted. Failure by an organization member or organization fan (parent, etc) to abide by this rule will result in that member to exit the building.
14. The top 6 mixed groups, regardless of class, will advance into finals. If there is only one girls group entered into the festival, they will be permitted to qualify for finals. In the event of a tie for the Grand Championship, the tie will be broken based on the composite vocal score. If the vocal score is tied, the tie will be broken based upon the existing rankings of the three (3) overall judges.