

OAC Video Entry Guidance 2026

This document will help with some questions you might have when recording your Open A cappella Submission Videos for our annual national competition.

There are no specific rules or requirements for the audition video. It is **whatever you feel will make the best case for your group as of the time of the recording**. We want to see the journey of the group from the beginning of the year until the recording of the group.

- The **members participating in the video recording need to be the majority of those present in the live show if the group were selected** for the final lineup. Of course, we understand there is sickness and other circumstances that can alter the final performance group, however, we require you to submit this year's group with as accurate a depiction as you can.
- Your video needs to be **recorded using the audio within the room and cannot be edited in post**. Only a single microphone (or at most a stereo pair) can be used to capture the audio within the room as if a person were watching you in real life.
- Any form of camera equipment can be used to record the video. **We do not mark down depending on visual quality**. We will also consider recording quality and equipment when comparing groups and will not give less consideration or weight to those recording their video at lower visual quality.
- The **maximum number of participants in any group is 20**, but bear in mind that the venue only has 16 microphones available. This is due to the amount of radio microphone channels we have available in the venue.
- **Choreography is not mandatory for your video submission**. If you decide to do choreography in your video submission that will be taken into consideration, however, we encourage you to consider if the choreography enhances the video outcome or if it makes your audio and quality more difficult to hear or more difficult for the group to perform.

FAQs

- How many songs do we need to submit?
 - There are no specific rules for how many you submit. If you feel one piece will make a great case for your group or if you feel you need more than three - only you will be able to gauge that. However, we generally suggest that two contrasting songs should suffice.

- Our group has recorded a video for another competition - can we use this?
 - We encourage groups to use that video, rather than re-recording another video as we know how difficult it can be to get the group together. However, please make sure the video is of the current generation and will be the majority of the live final individual members if selected for the final show.

To help us continue building out our FAQs section - please submit more questions [here](#).

Once your video is recorded please attach it via unlisted YouTube link to the application form found [here](#). If we receive a high number of applications, the evidence will go through a short panel process to reduce the competition to 7-10 groups.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 31st December 2025, 11:59pm**.

Applications for the competition are free, but there is a **participation fee upon selection for the live show of £175 per group**. This goes directly towards venue hire and paying our freelance team (judges, sound team etc.).

Please refer to our website [here](#) for any further information.

If you have any other questions, please contact us at sing@openacappella.co.uk

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