

## **RULES & JUDGING CRITERIA ESTABLISHED AND PUBLIC Charlotte Blues Society 2018**

The Blues Foundation encourages affiliates to use the IBC rules and judging/scoring criteria in their local challenges, but affiliates may use their own provided such criteria are established in advance and made public.

Charlotte Blues Society adopts these rules and criteria as experience has shown that acts that have competed under the IBC rules and scoring criteria in their local challenge are better prepared for competing in the IBC. In addition, CBS is requiring competitors to choose a blues song from the lists provided and perform within their set. Pay close attention to scoring info below on Blues content and originality when covering chosen song.

### **SCORING CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS**

#### **Blues Content:**

The sound and feel of the music should be true to any of blues' sub-categories; traditional blues, country blues, soul blues, blues rock and/or contemporary blues. Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or *new takes on blues standards*. Creative reach is encouraged.

**Originality:** Original work is encouraged. *Cover tunes are allowed but playing the recorded rendition lick by lick is discouraged, will not be looked upon favorably by the judges, and will be reflected in scoring.*

Acts must indicate if their songs are their own original material (this can be done at the start of the set or before each song as appropriate) and/or identify the covers that they are playing and acknowledge the originator.

**Vocals:** The act's vocal skills to include concepts of tone, musicality, meaning and expression

**Instrumental Talent:** Ability level on all instruments featured within the act.

**Stage Presence:** The ability to command the attention of the audience by the impressiveness of one's manner and appearance on stage. Judges will consider how an act connects with and engages the audience in the music. Proper use of microphones and amplification will be considered.

### **BASIC SCORING CALCULATIONS:**

Judges will score acts on a 10 point scale, with 10 points being the highest score received and 1 point being the lowest. The following weights will be used in calculating final scores:

- Raw Scores for Blues Content will be multiplied by four.
- Raw Scores for Talent and for Vocals will be multiplied by two.
- Raw scores for Stage Presence will be multiplied by two

The maximum Total Weighted Score/judge that an act may receive is 130.

## **PENALTY POINTS:**

An act will be penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each of the following:

- Missing the online application deadline or not completing the online application completely or accurately by the deadline
- Missing act check-in or act orientation on the first day of the event
- Each night the act neglect to check in with its Venue Coordinator at least 20 minutes before the first performance begins at the assigned venue
- Excessive time loading-in before and/or loading out after a competition performance
- Failing to acknowledge that a song is a cover and/or not giving credit to its originator
- Each ten seconds that it runs overtime during a competition performance
- Finishing 3 or more minutes before its allotted performance time expires
- Showing up late and/or missing Finals Orientation
- Showing up late and/or not being ready to perform on time at the Finals
- Performing in any other venue in the city of Memphis during formal IBC hours and in direct conflict with The Blues Foundation's programmed activities

The Blues Foundation strongly suggests that after meeting with their Venue Coordinator for their required check-in each night, each act remain in their assigned venue in order to be immediately available to perform at the Venue Coordinator's direction. The Venue Coordinator will be responsible for assessing Penalty Points based on IBC rules.

## **IMPARTIAL JURIED RESULTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

While the results of such competitions are always subjective, impartiality, whether real or perceived is of the utmost importance.

## **ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

- There will be a minimum of 3 judges for each preliminary round and the finals
- To the extent possible, judges should be selected based on some level of knowledge of or involvement in the blues
- Any individual preliminary round or finals must have the same panel of judges i.e., every band or solo/duo act should be evaluated by the same judges in each round
- Judges with obvious conflicts of interest, such as family, or other personal or professional relationships with any act, should not be seated to evaluate any of the challengers.
- It is recommended that board members or officers of the affiliate not be member of the judging panel.
- Judges should not be encouraged to support or oppose specific acts. Fairness is critical.
- Judges should be made aware of the scoring criteria in advance. The acts should be evaluated according to the scoring criteria, not compared with the other competing acts.

Under the IBC scoring criteria, there is clear guidance provided for assigning numeric scores.

## **MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACTS REQUIRED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

The minimum number of acts in each category(bands and solo/duo) is two(2). Affiliates may run a combined challenge where bands compete against solo/duo acts but in such cases there would only be one winner selected to go to the IBC.

The affiliate may choose to have both band and solo/duo entrants evaluated in the same challenge event, but the same panel of judges. In such cases, so long as there is a minimum of two entrants in each category, the affiliate may send entrants to the IBC in each category. If there is only one solo/duo or band entrant, they may compete with entrants in the other category but the affiliate may only send a single entrant to the IBC.

Note: As part of the registration process, affiliates will be required to complete a form that documents the final round of their local challenge, i.e., date, location, participants, judges, etc

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Backline and equipment**

The affiliate will provide backline and sound. The setup on stage will include:  
a drum kit with snare drum, amps , keyboards & mics.

The backline in each venue will be based on the act's registration information. Drummers should bring their own cymbals and kick pedals, and harmonica players may(not are not required to) bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players are allowed(not are not required) to bring their own keyboards and keyboard amps. Keyboard stands will be provided. Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. Musicians must include on the online registration form any additional or special equipment needed.

Competitors are prohibited from bringing their own guitar amps. Musicians should bring their own DI boxes.

### **YOUTH SHOWCASE ACTS**

Affiliates may also sponsor one youth act to participate in the IBC Youth Showcase. Affiliates can decide for themselves whether to appoint a youth act or have a local competition.