

# 2015 IOWA BLUES CHALLENGE

## OPEN TO ALL IOWA-BASED BLUES ACTS

### RULES:

1. In 2015 the Band and Solo/Duo categories of the Iowa Blues Challenge will run concurrently and culminate with a single event finals featuring winners from 3 preliminary rounds in each category. CIBS is making an effort to more closely represent what you can expect to experience at the International Blues Challenge at this level. In particular, this year the scoring for the Finals and Des Moines preliminaries in both categories will use the IBC system, including the weighting, but excluding the assessment of penalty points. The scoring used at preliminaries of other hosting societies may differ somewhat.
2. Act must meet eligibility requirements of International Blues Challenge vis-à-vis no BMA/Handy nominations and maximum two consecutive year participation. While the IBC prohibits an individual from participating in both band and solo/duo categories, CIBS will allow it for IABC. If, however, an individual is represented in both IABC champions, a decision will have to be made about which to enter into IBC, with the IBC entry being extended to the second place IABC act in the other category.
3. Act must submit ALL of the following entry materials to the Central Iowa Blues Society before the entry deadline of midnight, Thursday, July 10. Any missing components will likely result in disqualification. Entry materials may be submitted via e-mail to challenge@cibs.org (preferred) or via mail to CIBS, P.O. Box 13016, Des Moines IA 50310 or via hand-delivery to a CIBS Board member or via a combination of these methods. Entry materials will not be returned.
  - a. APPLICATION: *The application must be completed in its entirety and signed. Completed original application or a scanned electronic version are acceptable.*
  - b. PHOTO: *3"x5" or larger. Electronic submissions should be 150 dpi or better resolution. Acceptable formats include .psd, .jpg, or .tif. Photo quality will not be a consideration for selection, but photo will be used to promote the act throughout the competition, so a higher quality photo will be more beneficial in that regard.*
  - c. BIOGRAPHY: *Should identify all members of the act. Hosting societies reserve the right to edit submitted biographies for appropriateness of content, grammar and punctuation, and/or space considerations in promotional materials.*
  - d. MUSIC SUBMISSION and ENTRY FEE are no longer required.
4. Signed application shall represent a guarantee of performance at Finals as well as the primary or secondary preliminary round indicated on the application. While we make every attempt to accommodate your primary preliminary round preference, as always the determination of placement is dependent on the number of applications that are received from each area. You will be notified of your actual preliminary date/location as soon as the selection process is complete. Failure to perform due to performance conflicts results in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes.
5. Central Iowa Blues Society Board of Directors will have final authority in determining eligibility of an act to compete and placement of acts in preliminary rounds (if needed).
6. Order of performance in all preliminary rounds and finals shall be by random drawing.
7. Hosting Blues Society of any round will control the format of their particular round, including length of sets, selection of judges, scoring, etc.
8. If winning act is unable to participate in the 2016 International Blues Challenge, entry and travel expenses shall be forfeited and will be offered to second place act.
9. Decisions of judges shall be final.

10. Act lineup must remain consistent from preliminary round through finals. Substitutions will not be allowed except in case of emergency and at the sole discretion of the CIBS Board of Directors.
11. An "Iowa Based" act shall include individuals who are residents of the state of Iowa or of the counties of other states which directly border Iowa, provided they can demonstrate a significant presence of performance within Iowa. At least 50% of the individuals in an act must be Iowa-based as defined above for the act to be Iowa-based.
12. Sound will be provided by hosting society or venue at all rounds. For the Finals and Des Moines preliminary rounds, please coordinate with sound technician Scott Long (515) 669-9525 regarding your specific needs.

13. Performance dates are as follows:

Band Des Moines Prelim	Sunday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Zimm's Food & Spirits
Band Quad Cities Prelim	Sunday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	River Music Experience
Band Newton Prelim	Sunday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Izaak Walton League
Solo/Duo Des Moines Prelim	Thursday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Zimm's Food & Spirits
Solo/Duo Quad Cities Prelim	Sunday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>	River Music Experience
Solo/Duo Fairfield Prelim	Saturday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Best Western
Band & Solo/Duo Finals	Saturday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	DSM Downtown Marriott

All preliminary rounds will be held, with the winner of each advancing to the Finals.

14. Prize package:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Band - \$500 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel in Otho IA, opportunity for paid performances at 2015 Parks Area Sweet Corn Day festival, 2015 Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, 2016 Winter Blues Fest & 2016 BBQ'Loo & Blues Too! festival, among others, and entry into and \$1200 travel expenses for 2016 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Band - \$300 cash prize

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Band - \$200 cash prize

1<sup>st</sup> Place Solo/Duo - \$250 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel in Otho IA, opportunity for paid performances at 2016 Winter Blues Fest & 2016 Bottoms Up Blues Bash, among others, and entry into and \$300 travel expenses for 2016 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Solo/Duo - \$150 cash prize

3<sup>rd</sup> place Solo/Duo - \$100 cash prize

Additional Prizes may be offered at local level. Prize package subject to change based on number of entries received. IBC travel expense money will be held by CIBS until Memphis arrangements are made. It is the responsibility of the winner to negotiate contracts for performance opportunities. Entrants accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions with respect to all prizes.

15. Entrants grant permission to Central Iowa Blues Society and any hosting blues society of a round in which they participate for the use of photos, bios, and audio or video recordings with respect to participation in the Iowa Blues Challenge for the promotion of the IABC now and in the future.
16. Failure of any participant to maintain respectful and professional conduct with respect to the Iowa Blues Challenge and Central Iowa Blues Society will result in disqualification.
17. ENTRY DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT, SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

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## Entry Application

ACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_ Band \_\_\_\_\_ Solo/Duo

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/CITY/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL ACT MEMBERS & THEIR INSTRUMENTS:

PRELIMINARY ROUND PREFERENCES:

BANDS: \_\_\_\_\_ DES MOINES \_\_\_\_\_ NEWTON \_\_\_\_\_ QUAD CITIES

SOLO/DUO: \_\_\_\_\_ DES MOINES \_\_\_\_\_ FAIRFIELD \_\_\_\_\_ QUAD CITIES

**(Place a 1 next to 1<sup>st</sup> choice, a 2 next to 2<sup>nd</sup> choice & a 3 next to 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, if one. Do not select a location for which you have a conflict)**

**We,** \_\_\_\_\_ (name of act),

**have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules for the Iowa Blues Challenge.**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of responsible party)

**ALL ENTRY MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED (POSTAL ENTRIES) OR TIME-STAMPED (ELECTRONIC ENTRIES) BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

**Central Iowa Blues Society  
P.O. Box 13016  
Des Moines IA 50310**

**OR CHALLENGE@CIBS.ORG**

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## Sample Ballot

**Judges:** Please rate act in each category on a scale of 1 to 10 as follows:

1 – 3 Typical of a beginning blues act

4 – 5 Typical of a local weekend act

6 – 7 Typical of an advanced local act, but not yet ready to headline a major blues club

8 – 9 Typical of the quality of a blues act capable of headlining a major blues club

10 Typical of the quality of a blues act capable of headlining the main stage of a major blues festival

CIBS representatives will calculate each acts total weighted score by multiplying the raw category scores by the established multiplier and totaling for each judge. Acts will then be ranked for each judge with the highest weighted score receiving a "1" ranking, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest weighted score receiving a "2" ranking, etc. The rankings for all judges will be averaged to determine total aggregate ranking, with the best total aggregate ranking determining the winner. In the case of a tie, the act with the higher total weighted score shall prevail. Your written comments are appreciated and a separate sheet is provided for each act for comments. Copies of ballots/comments will be distributed to participants following the competition.

### NAME OF ACT

<b>JUDGING CATEGORIES</b> (multiplier) Description	<b>RAW SCORE</b> (1-10)
<b>BLUES CONTENT</b> (4) Blues covers a wide range of styles and sub-genres, and as such is open for individual interpretation. Performers should take care in selecting material that is appropriate for a blues competition. Judges should remember that blues encompasses more than just a 12 bar shuffle.	
<b>VOCALS</b> (3) The vocal talent of the act.	
<b>TALENT</b> (3) The instrumental talent of the act.	
<b>ORIGINALITY</b> (2) Use of original creative works as well as unique interpretations of cover tunes.	
<b>STAGE PRESENCE</b> (2) Presentation, professionalism, poise, flow & pacing of set, connection with audience, appearance. Acts will not be penalized for technical issues, but the manner of how technical issues are handed onstage will be judged in this category.	

**FOR CIBS USE:**

**JID** \_\_\_\_\_ **TWS** \_\_\_\_\_ **AR** \_\_\_\_\_