

2017 IOWA BLUES CHALLENGE

OPEN TO ALL IOWA-BASED BLUES ACTS

RULES:

1. In 2017 the Band and Solo/Duo categories of the Iowa Blues Challenge (IABC) 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 as closely as possible represent what you can expect to experience at the International Blues Challenge at this level. The scoring for the Finals and Des Moines and Newton preliminaries in both categories will use the IBC system, including the category weighting, but excluding the assessment of penalty points. The scoring used at preliminaries of other hosting societies may differ slightly.
2. Act must meet eligibility requirements of International Blues Challenge vis-à-vis no BMA/Handy nominations and maximum consecutive & cumulative IBC participation. These rules have changed somewhat. Please consult the Blues Foundation Affiliate Booklet for the particulars. 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 regarding 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 postmark/time stamp deadline of midnight, Sunday, June 11, 2017. Any missing or late 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 (preferred) should be 150 dpi or better resolution. Acceptable formats include .psd, .jpg, or .tif. Physical photos must be printed on photo quality paper. Photo should include all participants in the act. Collages of individuals Photo-shopped together are not acceptable.*
 - c. BIOGRAPHY: *200-400 words. 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.*
4. Signed application shall represent a guarantee of performance at Finals as well as any preliminary round preferences indicated on the application. While every attempt is made to accommodate your primary preliminary round preference, the determination of placement is dependent on the number of applications that are received for each prelim. Do not indicate a second or third preference that you are not willing to accept. You will be notified of your actual preliminary date/location as soon as the selection process is complete. Failure to perform due to other 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. Decisions of judges shall be final.
8. If winning act is unable to participate in the 2018 International Blues Challenge, entry and travel expenses shall be forfeited and will be offered to the second place act in that category.

9. 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.
10. An "Iowa Based" performer shall be defined as an individual who is a resident of the state of Iowa or of the counties of other states which directly border Iowa (such as Rock Island Co., IL), 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.
11. Sound will be provided by hosting society or venue at all rounds. A 5-piece drum set with cymbals will be provided for Des Moines Band preliminary round and Finals. (courtesy of Rieman Music) Participants are welcome to augment with their own additional percussion pieces. The use of sampling/looping equipment is technically allowed, but highly discouraged. (This is a live music contest!)
12. Performance dates/venues are as follows:

Band Grinnell Prelim	Sunday, July 9	Oakland Acres Golf Club
Band Des Moines Prelim	Thursday, July 20	Lefty's Live Music
Band Quad Cities Prelim	Saturday, August 5	Rock Island Brewing Co
Solo/Duo Fairfield Prelim	Saturday, July 8	Depot Brewery
Solo/Duo Des Moines Prelim	Sunday, July 16	Zimm's Food & Spirits
Solo/Duo Quad Cities Prelim	Saturday, August 5	Rock Island Brewing Co
Band & Solo/Duo Finals	Saturday, September 16	Des Moines Social Club

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

13. Prize package:
 - 1st Place Band - \$500 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel in Otho IA, opportunity for paid performance at 2018 Winter Blues Fest & BBQ'Loo & Blues Too! festival, among others, and entry into and \$200 per act member travel expenses for 2018 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.
 - 2nd Place Band - \$300 cash prize
 - 3rd Place Band - \$200 cash prize
 - 1st Place Solo/Duo - \$250 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel in Otho IA, opportunity for paid performance at 2018 Winter Blues Fest among others, and entry into and \$200 per member travel expenses for 2018 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.
 - 2nd Place Solo/Duo - \$150 cash prize
 - 3rd place Solo/Duo - \$100 cash prize

Additional Prizes may be offered at local level. Prize package is subject to change in the event of circumstances outside the control of the Central Iowa Blues Society. IBC travel expense money will be held by CIBS until Memphis arrangements are made. Performance opportunities are not guaranteed - it is the responsibility of the winner to successfully negotiate contracts for performance opportunities. Entrants accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions with respect to all prizes.
14. 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.
15. Failure of any participant to maintain respectful and professional conduct with respect to the Iowa Blues Challenge and Central Iowa Blues Society or partnering organizations will result in disqualification.
16. ENTRY DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

2017 IOWA BLUES CHALLENGE

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, 2nd 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

JUDGING CATEGORIES (multiplier) Description	RAW SCORE (1-10)
BLUES CONTENT (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 keep in mind that blues encompasses more than just a 12 bar shuffle.	
VOCALS (2) The vocal talent of the act.	
TALENT (2) The instrumental talent of the act.	
ORIGINALITY (3) Use of original creative works as well as unique interpretations of cover tunes.	
STAGE PRESENCE (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** _____