



RULES:

1. In 2018 the Band and Solo/Duo categories of the Iowa Blues Challenge (IABC) will run concurrently and culminate with a finals event 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 (IBC) at this level. The scoring in both categories for all rounds will use the IBC system, including the category weighting.
2. Act must meet eligibility requirements of International Blues Challenge vis-à-vis no BMA/Handy nominations and maximum consecutive & cumulative IBC participation. 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. No one may participate in more than one act in the same category.
3. 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. City & State of residence of all act members must be listed on the application.
4. Beginning in 2018 CIBS will only accept electronic entries. Act must submit ALL of the following entry materials to the CIBS IABC Chair via email at **jeff@cibs.org** before the entry deadline of midnight, Saturday, July 21, 2018. Late applications will not be accepted.
 - a. APPLICATION: *The application must be completed in its entirety. The listed responsible party for the act is the only person CIBS will communicate with for all purposes, must be age 18 or older and by submitting application certifies that they and all listed members of the act have read, understand and agree to abide by these rules.*
 - b. PHOTO: *150 dpi or better resolution in .jpg format. Photo should include all participants in the act. Collages of individuals photo-shopped together are not acceptable. Hosting societies reserve the right to crop submitted photos to a uniform aspect ratio.*
 - 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.*
5. Signed application shall represent a guarantee of performance at Finals, should the act advance, 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 placement process is complete. If there is only one participant for a given prelim, that act will advance to the finals.
6. Order of performance in all rounds 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 and extent of backline provided. Decisions of judges shall be final.

8. Act lineup must remain consistent from application through preliminary round and finals. Substitutions will only be allowed in the case of legitimate and verifiable emergency and at the sole discretion of the IABC Chair.
9. PA 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. Participants in other prelims should contact the coordinator for that prelim to determine the extent of backline that will be provided. The use of sampling/looping equipment is not allowed - This is a live music contest!
10. Performance dates/venues are as follows:

Quad Cities Band & Solo/Duo Prelim	Sunday, August 12	River Music Experience
Fairfield Band & Solo/Duo Prelim	Saturday, August 18	Depot Brewery
Des Moines Solo/Duo Prelim	Sunday, August 19	Zimm's Food & Spirits
Des Moines Band Prelim	Sunday, August 26	Lefty's Live Music
Band & Solo/Duo Finals	Saturday, September 8	Des Moines Social Club

11. Prize package:
 - 1st Place Band - \$750 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel, opportunity for paid performance at 2019 Winter Blues Fest & others TBD, and entry into and \$400 per act member travel stipend for 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.
 - 2nd Place Band - \$500 cash prize
 - 3rd Place Band - \$250 cash prize
 - 1st Place Solo/Duo - \$300 cash prize, 8 hours recording time courtesy of Junior's Motel, opportunity for paid performance at 2019 Winter Blues Fest & others TBD, and entry into and \$400 per act member travel stipend for 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis TN.
 - 2nd Place Solo/Duo - \$200 cash prize
 - 3rd place Solo/Duo - \$100 cash prize

Additional Prizes may be added prior to the Finals. IBC travel stipend will be distributed after act is successfully registered for IBC. 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.
12. If winning act is unable to participate in the 2019 International Blues Challenge, entry and travel expenses shall be forfeited and will be offered to the runner up in that category.
13. 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.
14. Failure of any participant to maintain respectful and professional conduct with respect to the Iowa Blues Challenge, Central Iowa Blues Society, judges or any partnering organizations will result in disqualification and potential ban from future participation. This shall include social media posts or public statements which reflect negatively. Criticisms should be addressed to the IABC chair & will be handled internally.
15. ENTRY DEADLINE IS MIDNIGHT, SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018. Send entries to JEEFF@CIBS.ORG.

2018 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

IABC representatives will calculate each act's 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 experiencing technical issues, but the manner of how technical issues are handed onstage will be judged in this category.	

FOR IABC USE:

JID _____ **TWS** _____ **AR** _____