



★ ★ ★ **2023 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE PARTICIPANT INFO** ★ ★ ★

**Deadline for entering the Las Vegas Blues Society International Blues Challenge competition is September 1, 2022. Late entries will not be accepted.**

**Instructions for entering:** Print and fill out the Las Vegas Blues Society IBC website download material or copy and print this page with the bands representative signature at the bottom. (Please print clearly). To be eligible, you'll need to send all of the following in a single package:

1. A completed, signed "Las Vegas Blues Society International Blues Challenge (IBC) Entry Form" entry form with confirmation of at least one of the band members being in good standing as a member of the Las Vegas Blues Society. (Click "Join Us" at [LasVegasBlues.org](http://LasVegasBlues.org))
2. Submit the band entry fee of \$25 for Las Vegas Blues Society member band or \$75 for non-member band. Checks or money orders may be made out to the Las Vegas Blues Society.
3. Confirmation that all band members have read the Competition Agreement, Eligibility Criteria, Scoring Criteria, Penalty Points and Equipment and Sets. An authorized signature by a representative of The Act is required at the bottom of this agreement.
4. Official band name.
5. Short band bio (200 words or less).
6. A digital color or B&W band photo with a 300 dpi resolution. This may be an Internet link.
7. A link to the band's website or Facebook page if applicable.
8. A stage plot to assist our sound crew in making a quick and correct setup for your requirements.

Failure to send all of the required items may forfeit eligibility. Any materials sent to LVBS that you wish returned will only be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided. Please mail everything in one package and mail it to the address below by the deadline.

**Las Vegas Blues Society**  
**P.O. Box 31145**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89173**

### **Las Vegas Blues Society International Blues Challenge (IBC) Entry Form agreement:**

The undersigned hereby attests that he/she is 18 years of age or older; and is the responsible spokesperson for the individual(s) listed elsewhere on this form and identified below by real for stage name, and herein referred to as "The Act."

1. It is agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of The Act, do hereby exempt from all liability, The Las Vegas Blues Society and The Blues Foundation and all persons, organizations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the International Blues Challenge.
2. It is further agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of The Act do hereby accept full responsibility for any applicable taxes and restrictions relating to any contest prizes received by The Act; further, each member of The Act, listed on the Entry Form, here-within permits The Las Vegas Blues Society the right to make use of his/her/their names, voices, pictures, visages and other likenesses of The Act for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the Blues Challenge through media, including entertainment and music syndicated radio, film and/or television shows presented or produced by The Las Vegas Blues Society or its partners or assigns.
3. The winning act is required to register online at the Blues Foundation's website for the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge (IBC) at least two weeks prior to the official registration deadline or may forfeit any anticipated monies associated with winning the local challenge and the right to represent The Las Vegas Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. At this point the second place act will become the representative contestant. This ensures that the winning act both abides by IBC eligibility rules and shows true intent of traveling to Memphis to compete.
4. Monies will be paid to the winning band only, in the form of a check written to one designated representative of the act. Failure to meet all eligibility and appearance requirements at the International Blues Challenge will result in forfeiture of monies.
5. The undersigned spokesperson hereby acknowledges that each member of The Act is knowledgeable of and agreed to abide by the terms of the Official Rules and Eligibility Criteria and this document, as set forth by The Las Vegas Blues Society.
6. The winning band is expected to play at a subsequent local IBC fundraiser should one be implemented.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

The winner is obligated to attend the IBC competition in Memphis. Failure to do so negates this contractual agreement.

- An act is limited to two consecutive appearances at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN and must then sit out at least one year before being eligible to compete again. An act under the same name will not be allowed to compete three consecutive years.
- Any artist whose name has appeared on a final Handy/Blues Music Award ballot is ineligible. (All other musicians who have had peripheral and/or professional contact through performance with a Handy/Blues Music Award nominee, including but not limited to touring band members and studio musicians, are deemed eligible for the IBC).
- An individual may not compete in more than one act in any capacity.
- The competition is for Blues Bands.

## Scoring Criteria

The following scoring criteria reflect in large part the Blues Foundation recommendations as they apply to the International Blues Challenge. Categories include **Blues Content, Vocals, Talent, Originality and Stage Presence.**

1. **Blues Content:** Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given three-judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues whenever possible, from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues. Bands should pick material carefully. At the Memphis semi-finals and finals, the judges are Blues professionals, not a bar crowd, and are likely to be unimpressed with song selections that are uninspired. (Call this — with all due respect to Sir Mack Rice and Wilson Pickett — the “no Mustang Sally rule.”)
2. **Vocals:** The act’s vocal skills
3. **Talent:** This category is self-explanatory - the act’s vocal ability and/or instrumental skills.
4. **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 set start or before each song or identify the covers to be played and acknowledge the originator.
5. **Stage Presence:** Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that the IBC no longer consider this an “amateur” competition. Most contestants have performed on stage enough to know that they are not simply playing music, but putting on a show. This category rates how “sellable” a band may be.

## Band Sets

Each band will have thirty (30) minutes to perform their selections. To assist The Act in their timekeeping a PC displaying your remaining time will be visible to all band members. It’s your responsibility to make sure you do not run over. There is a 15-minute changeover period between sets. (The oncoming band has ten minutes to set up and the outgoing band has five minutes to tear down.) If a band exceeds the 30-minute performance time or the 15-minute changeover a penalty may apply. (See Penalty Points section).

## Weighted Scoring

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of a band, a band’s score in each category is weighted. Raw scores for Blues Content are multiplied by four. Talent and vocals, and stage presence are multiplied by two. And Originality multiplied by three. The total in each category represents the Weighted Score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 130 per judge.

## **Penalty Points**

Penalty points are about demonstrating professionalism and seriousness about the competition. Read all of the Blues Foundation's penalty-causing events for Memphis competition at [blues.org](http://blues.org).

- The Act is penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each ten seconds that it runs overtime.
- The same penalty also applies to exceeding the 15-minute changeover period. (The oncoming band has ten minutes to set up. If the preceding band takes more than five minutes to clear the stage, the oncoming band will not be penalized.)
- Participants can lose points for non-compliance with administrative aspects of the competition.
- Online application was not filled out completely, accurately and before the deadline.
- Act photo was not supplied by the deadline or in the format and size requested.
- Act bio was not supplied by the deadline and in the manner requested.
- Act is not ready to perform at proper time. In the event that a band scheduled to play in a specific slot is not able to perform for whatever reason, the Central Delaware Blues Society will have the authority to deduct a point from the band's overall weighted score for that competition. The next band scheduled to play will be asked to step into that slot. Should that band, for whatever reason, not be able to perform when asked, the CDBS Competition Coordinator (CC) has the authority to deduct a point from that band, and so on. With that in mind, The Central Delaware Blues Society strongly suggests that after a band has met with their CC for their required check-in, they stay in the venue and are available to perform at the CC's direction, regardless of which slot they are scheduled to play. Bands that have missed their designated slot will be allowed to perform later but will still suffer the loss of a point on the weighted score.

## **Equipment and Sets:**

- The Las Vegas Blues Society will provide the PA system and limited backline. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, amps and microphones. Drummers should bring their own cymbals and kick pedals (Yes, you will need your cymbals, you might want to bring your own snare too) and Harmonica players CAN (but are not required) bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players should bring their own keyboards and keyboard amp.
- Musicians must include on this registration form any additional or special equipment needed.
- All applicants must have at least one Las Vegas Blues Society member in good standing.



★ ★ ★ 2023 INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM ★ ★ ★

\_\_\_\_\_  
"Act" Name

**Additional Band Members:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Act Representative / Applicant Name (Printed)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

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Email

**Special Equipment Requirements:**

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