

# 2017 Topeka Blues Society (TBS) Blues Challenge

## OFFICIAL APPLICATION

**Band and Solo/Duo Blues Challenge**  
**To be held August 20, 2017 at Uncle Bo's, Topeka**

***Application Deadline - August 14, 2017***

### Competition 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 or stage name, and herein referred to as **The Act**.

It is agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of **The Act**, do hereby exempt from all liability, the Topeka Blues Society, The Blues Foundation, and all persons, organizations and companies that are directly or indirectly associated with the Blues Challenge.

It is further agreed by the spokesperson that he/she and each member of **The Act** do hereby accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions relating to contest prizes received by **The Act**; further, each member of **The Act**, listed on Page 2 of this form, here within permits the Topeka 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 Topeka Blues Society or its partners or assigns. In addition, the spokesperson and each member of **The Act** hereby agrees that the Topeka Blues Society will retain total ownership of the program(s), the right to edit the program(s), the right to broadcast the program(s), the right to copyright the program(s) and the right to license others to use these rights.

The winning act will be 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 their prize monies and the right to represent the Topeka Blues Society at the 2017 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.

Prize monies of \$1000 will be paid to the winning band, and \$500 each for the solo/duo and youth band acts in the form of cash or a check written to one representative of each **Act**. Prize monies will be paid one week prior to the 2018 International Blues Challenge. An IRS W-9 form will be required to be filled out by the person receiving the check. *Failure to meet all eligibility and appearance requirements at the 2018 International Blues Challenge will result in forfeiture of prize monies.*

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 Topeka Blues Society.

**Band**

**Solo/Duo**

**Youth**

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

**CONTACT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE-DAY ( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**NIGHT ( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST TIME TO CALL** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*BAND MEMBERS:**

**NAME**

**INSTRUMENT**

**AGE**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

***\*NOTE: Substitutions will be allowed for the local Blues Challenge representation competition. However, those that perform at the local level will be required to perform at the 2018 IBC in Memphis, should your band win the local Blues Challenge.***

## Eligibility Criteria:

### Restrictions:

- 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.
- A musician cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division, even if that musician represents a different Affiliate in each.

No other eligibility restrictions apply.

- This means that management contracts, booking agent contracts, recording contracts, performance contracts (even those that include regular television or radio broadcast) and nationally distributed recordings have no bearing on eligibility.
- An entry fee of \$25.00 must accompany the official application form.
- **The Act** must arrive at the Competition location, to be determined, on time for their scheduled performance slot or risk disqualification. Proof of residency will be required on day of competition.
- All scheduled performance times are approximate. It is highly recommended that **The Act** arrive at least 1 hour prior to their scheduled performance. Cancellations and short performance times of other acts may accelerate the schedule. If for any reason an act is not ready to take the stage following the previous competitor's performance, the act will forfeit their right perform and the competition will proceed to the next act.

## Scoring Criteria:

### **Categories include Talent, Blues Content, Stage Presence and Originality**

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. Talent: This category is self-explanatory—the act's vocal and/or instrumental skills.

3. 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.

4. Stage Presence: Over the years, the quality of talent has risen so dramatically that we 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.

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 is multiplied by four, Talent and Vocals by three and Originality and Stage Presence are multiplied by two. The total in each category represents the weighted score for that category. Total possible weighted score is 140.

The weighted multipliers will be Blues content (4); talent (3); vocals (3); originality (2) and stage presence (2).

### **Penalty Points**

An act is penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score (see below) for each ten seconds the band runs overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time.

### **Scoring System for Judges**

1. All categories and weightings are as previously stated.

2. Each judge will indicate his or her Raw Score (a whole number between 1 and 10) in each category and turn that information over to scorekeeper.

1-3 Typical of a beginning blues band.

4-5 Typical of a local weekend band.

6-7 Typical of an advanced local band but not yet ready to headline a major blues club.

8-9 Typical of the quality of blues artists who headline major clubs.

10 Typical of those who play the main stage at major festivals such as Chicago or King Biscuit Blues Festivals.

3. The scorekeeper will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get each judge's Weighted Score in each category for each act.

4. The Weighted Scores from each category for an act are added together to determine the act's Total Weighted Score for each judge.

5. Any penalty points will then be deducted to obtain the act's Net Weighted Score for each judge.

6. In the case of a tie, the scorer shall calculate the sum of all Total Weighted Scores from all judges for the tied acts. The band with the higher sum of Total Weighted Scores wins.

## Equipment and Sets:

The Topeka Blues Society will provide the PA system, microphones and drums. You are required to use the equipment provided. (Drummers may bring their own cymbals, snare, kick pedal and throne if desired.) Acts will provide their own amplifiers.

Acts will be given ten minutes to set up and five minutes to vacate the stage following their performance.

Sets will be twenty five minutes in length. A time card will be held up at the 5, 3 and 1 minute marks.

Order of performance will be determined by random drawing that will occur at noon on the day of the competition.

Your signature is a guarantee of performance. **Do Not** sign if you have a conflict with the date of the competition.

## Entry Requirements

Application should be mailed to the Topeka Blues Society, P.O. Box 4963, Topeka, KS 66604.

Slots will be filled in order of the date entries are received and will be limited to six bands and six solo/duo acts, received by the **deadline date of August 14, 2017**. Only those submitted by the deadline, with the \$25 application fee, will be allowed to perform. It is highly recommended you submit your entry as soon as possible. Checks should be payable to the Topeka Blues Society. Application fee is non-refundable for acts accepted into the competition.

*At least one member of **The Act** must be a member of the Topeka Blues Society (TBS) by the entry date. If at least one member of **The Act** is not a TBS member, their membership application and fee must be submitted with the Blues Challenge application and fee.*

Refund of application fee for acts not accepted into the competition will be made by check after the date of the competition.

## Arbitration of Eligibility Disputes:

The Topeka Blues Society will stand as the final arbiter of any disputes. Each entrant is required to sign an affidavit stating that the band meets eligibility requirements. Bands found to be ineligible will be disqualified from the competition.

I hereby represent that I am authorized to agree to all terms and conditions listed above for **The Act**.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_