

Kansas City Blues Society
International Blues Competition
Rules and Regulations

Semi-finals

The number of semi-finals, times and dates, shall be determined by the number of contestants. The order of performance shall be by random drawing. All contestants must have a member (or member representative present) at the time of initial drawing. Any solo/duo or band that cannot for any reason perform the date selected must notify Kansas City Blues Society immediately. Trading of positions by solo/duo acts or bands is strictly prohibited.

Restrictions

Band – any act with three or more musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

Solo/Duo – any act with one or two musicians. Vocalists are counted as musicians for the purpose of this competition. Both electric and acoustic instruments are allowed.

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.

Musicians named on entry forms should compete in all competitions. Substitutes are allowed. The Kansas City Blues Society **may** consider substitutions when there is a reasonable reason.

Contestants must give notice, in writing, at least one week in advance of competing of any substitutions. Contestants shall provide the name of the musician, the reason to be considered, the name of the substitute (if any) that will perform and if this is a permanent or temporary replacement.

Scoring Criteria

The Kansas City Blues Society shall use the established Blues Foundation scoring system.

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 acts vocal skills.

3. Talent: The acts 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.

5. 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.

Penalty Points

An **ACT** will be penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score (see below) for each **ten seconds that it runs overtime**. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time.

At the producing organization’s discretion, a policy of penalty for excessive time loading-in and out will also be applied.

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

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 the 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 the LRBC or King Biscuit Blues Festival.

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 acts' 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 Net Weighted Scores from all judges for the tied acts. The band with the higher sum of Net Weighted Scores wins.

Staging and Equipment

The Kansas City Blues Society will provide backline and sound. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, guitar amp(s), bass guitar amp, Keyboard amp and mics. 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 may (but are not required, we will provide) bring their own keyboard amps. **Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted.**

Competitors are prohibited from bringing their own amplifiers (harp amps and keyboard amps being the only exceptions.) Please bring a DI (if you use one) every effort will be made to provide suitable equipment. **This is live music! Pre-recorded music is prohibited!**

Bands receive 10 minutes between sets to set up and solo/duo acts get 5 minutes.

Please note: Set lengths are 25 minutes for semi-finals and 30 minutes for finals.

Winners

Once winners are announced, there will be a meeting to discuss future dates for fundraising prior to the International Blues Competition in Memphis. Is the intent of the Kansas City Blues Society to showcase this year's representative's at all semi-final locations. This will be based on availability at those locations. The Kansas City Blues Society will also provide a mentoring program of past KCBS representatives to educate this year's representatives on what to expect in Memphis.

Deadline for ALL acts to register for the Memphis competition is November 24, 2014.

