

VERMONT BLUES SOCIETY SPONSORS LOCAL CHALLENGE FOR INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE IN MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

The Vermont Blues Society is very excited to hold their first Blues Challenge. It is a chance to play amongst the best in our area. We would like to promote local blues talent and their development. We like to see it as a Challenge vs Competition because everyone is a winner coming out to perform.

BANDS - Sunday September 22nd - Sweet Melissa's , Montpelier, VT - Check in 2 pm - 7 pm
SOLO/DUO ACTS - September - 25th - Brooklyn Music in Vermont House Concert Venue, Jericho, VT - Check in 5 pm (Solo/Duo Please also reserve September 22nd, if insufficient interest both challenges will be held on Sept 22nd at Sweet Melissa's in Montpelier Vermont. You will be notified of this by August 15th.)

IBC 101 (Overview to International Blues Challenge)

The International Blues Challenge (IBC) has been held annually for 3 decades during January in Memphis Tennessee (this year Jan 28-Feb 1).

There is a challenge in two categories - Solo/Duo or Band.

The first two nights you play in a locally assigned club in and around Beale St in Memphis. You will be scored by a panel of judges selected by the Blues Foundation.

All participants challenging are play the first two nights, if you are selected by the judges you move onto the Semi-finals on Friday night. Of course if you are selected that night you go on the Finals on Saturday at the famous Orpheum Theatre in Memphis Tennessee. There are several awards in each category that will be listed below, but the real award is being seen and heard by others and experiencing the Blues from around the world.

There are many rules, listed below, around the local challenge which are similar to those in the IBC in Memphis.

The local challenges for two categories - Solo/Duo or Bands . You can not compete in both the same year. At this time the Band and Solo acts will be two different nights -

BANDS - Sunday September 22nd - Sweet Melissa's , Montpelier, VT - Check in 2 pm - 7 pm
SOLO/DUO ACTS - September - 25th - Brooklyn Music in Vermont House Concert Venue, Jericho, VT - Check in 5 pm

The Rules for the local IBC challenge will be the similar for both categories with some obvious differences for bands being backline rules.

RULES FOR LOCAL IBC CHALLENGE

1. At the local level, you may compete in both the Band and Solo/Duo Categories but you are only allowed to go on in one category (For instance - you in a Band that places first place in the local Band Category and you also have a local solo or duo group - you may still be in the Solo/Duo Challenge for experience and sharing but you will not be able to be first place Solo/Duo) This is because you can not go to the IBC in two categories - as they compete at the same time.
2. Time for each act in the local challenge is 25 minutes with 15 minutes allowed for turnover (see below for penalty scoring)
3. Any Act, band or solo/duo, that has won first place at the IBC I Memphis may not enter a challenge in that same category I the future

4. An individual musician who has won the IBC as a solo performer may not re-enter as part of a duo, nor can a member of an IBC winning duo then enter as a solo performer.
5. An act may enter the IBC a maximum of 3 times, after which they are no longer eligible. . They may not participate in the IBC in three consecutive years, IE - there must be a break of at least one year after competing in a first or second IBC. Please review with the Blues Foundation what constitutes a new act.
6. The winning act in a particular category in the local challenge must enter in the same category for the IBC (IE - if a band wins the local challenge, one or two musicians from the band cannot enter the solo/duo category at the IBC).
7. Acts must enter the challenge in their own/home affiliate first (or the closest affiliate based on distance). If they are not successful, they may enter the challenges of no more than 2 affiliates in that year provided these affiliates are within 250 miles. Acts are not permitted to enter the challenge of the 2 distant affiliates if either is held prior to the home challenges.
8. If a winning act withdraws before registering for the IBC, affiliates (may send the act that placed second in the local challenge. If the act withdraws after registering for the IBC, a replacement may not be entered.
9. All members of the winning act must attend the IBC. Should unexpected circumstances arise (family illness, emergencies, etc.) no more than one member of any band may be replaced.

This next section is imperative to review as you prepare for the local challenge!

RULES AND JUDGING CRITERIA - this is based on the IBC rules and judging/scoring criteria to assist with being better prepared for the IBC.

Scoring Categories and Definitions

Blues Content - The sound and feel of the music should be true to any of the blues' sub-categories: traditional blues, country blues, soul blues, blues rock and and/or contemporary blues, soul blues, blues rock and/or contemporary blues. Judges will be listening for inspired and original song selections or new takes on blues standards. Creative reach is encouraged.

Originality - Original work is encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed by 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 the start of the set or before each song as appropriate) and/ or identify the covers that they are playing and acknowledge the originator.

Vocals - The act's vocal skills to include concepts of tone, musicality, meaning and expression.

Instrumental Talent - Ability level on all instruments featured with the act.

Stage Presence - The ability to command the attention of the audience by the impressiveness of one's manner and appearance on stage. Judges will consider how an act connects with and engages the audience in the music. Proper use of microphones and application will be considered.

BASIC SCORING CALCULATIONS - This is to assist in impartiality by the judges!

Judges will score acts on a 10 point scale, with 10 points being the highest score received and 1 point being the lowest. The following weights will be used in calculating the final score:

- * RAW score (1-10) for Blues Content multiplied by 4
- * RAW score (1-10) for Originality multiplied by 3

- * RAW score (1-10) for Talent and for Vocals multiplied by 2
 - * RAW score (1-10) for Stage Presence multiplied by 2
- The maximum Total Weighted Score would be 130

PENALTY POINTS - An act will be penalized one point from its Total Weighted Score for each of the following:

- * Missing the online application deadline or not completing completely or accurately by the deadline
- * Missing act check-in or act orientation on the day of the challenge
- * Excessive time loading-in before and/or after a completed performance
- * Failing to acknowledge that a song is a cover and/or not giving credit to its originator
- * Each ten seconds that it runs overtime during a competition performance
- * Finishing 3 or more minutes before its allotted performance time expires
- * Showing up late/not being ready to perform on time

VBS strongly suggests that after checking in on the day of the challenge each act remain at the venue in order to be immediately available to perform at the Venue Coordinators direction.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Backline and Equipment - similar to the IBC

Setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, amps, keyboards and mics.

The backline will be based on the act's registration information.

Drummers should bring their own cymbals and kick pedals.

Harmonica players may (but are not required to) bring their own harp amp.

Keyboard players are allowed (but not required to) bring their own keyboards and keyboard amps.

Keyboard stand will be provided.

Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted.

Musicians must include on the registration form any additional or special equipment needed.

Musicians should bring their own DI boxes.

Prohibited from bringing :

Own guitar amplifiers (harp and keyboard are the only exceptions)

FOR COMPLETE RULES AND GUIDELINES THAT THIS IS BASE ON PLEASE GO TO THE BLUES FOUNDATION International Blues Challenge Rules and Guidelines for Local Affiliate Challenges

