

River City Ohio Blues Competition

2019 Rules

The Blues, Jazz, and Folk Music (BJFM) Society sponsors this event yearly. It is a prime opportunity to enhance and pursue your music career. **The rules** have been modified and set in accordance with the **International Blues Challenge** which opens up many opportunities for musicians.

Prizes:

First Place - \$1000 and entrance into the **International Blues Challenge (IBC)** in Memphis early in 2020. Offers of playing at our **River City Blues Festival in March** and in Pomeroy during the **Big Bend Blues Bash**. Additional \$500 when act registers for the Blues Challenge. **Second Place receives \$500**. Only the first place winner goes to compete at the IBC.

Eligibility: Participants must **play or sing the blues**. You can be a **group or duo/solo performance**. Both will receive an equal chance of winning the competition. **An individual may not compete in more than one act** as a solo artist and as a member of a band. If an individual, in their capacity, **has been included on the Blues Music Awards ballot for the coming year, that person is not eligible**. This rule will not bar sidemen or songwriters.

Demo Tape: A demo tape or CD of the act must be submitted with the entry form. It is a requirement.

Event Format: The competition is on Saturday afternoon of The River City Blues Festival on March 16th, 2019 from 12:30-3:30. Winners will be announced prior to the afternoon headline show.

Judging: will be according to rules from The National Blues Foundation, and as such will be the **average** of raw scores *weighted* as follows:

1. **Blues Content** (x4), most important
 2. **Instrumental Talent** (x3)
 3. **Vocal Talent** (x3)
 4. **Originality** (x2), blues covers will work as long as they are arranged in your own style
 5. **Stage Presence** (x2), look and act professional
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Time slots: **Any special requests for a time slot should be noted on your application, but not guaranteed.** When you are assigned a timeslot, it is the competitor's obligation to be available to fulfill their allotted slot. We follow the same guidelines of the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge. When your slot is given to you, you are expected to perform at that allotted time.

Time Limitation: We limit each act to a performance of **20 minutes**. This performance is timed from when the act strikes its first note. An amber light is flashed at the act when there are 2 minutes left to play and a red light is flashed when time is up. **Acts are penalized** one point from the combined judges' scores for each ten seconds that they run overtime. There is no penalty for using less than the allotted time.

Check In At Competition:

Competing acts need to check in at pre-function tables **1 hour prior** to your time slot and before load in. You need to be ready to play when you are slotted. There will be 6 slots available for competitors. Just as in Memphis at the IBC, you will need to take the time slot you are allocated.

At check in, each act **must present 8 copies of a typewritten set list** which must be followed on stage. **Note which songs are originals and which songs are covers.**

Participating act members are admitted free to all parts of the Saturday afternoon show. Each act member can have one guest admitted for 1/2 price to the Saturday afternoon show.

Booking Information: Please provide promo information about your group and business cards if you have any for our tables in the prefunction area for inquiries. You are also welcome to sell your merchandise.

Application must be received by **Friday January 26, 2019**. Bands will be notified of acceptance or rejection two weeks after that date after a review of the demo tapes by the Board of BJFM. **Print and mail this application together** with your **\$40 entry fee for bands or \$20 entry fee for solo/duo** (check or money order made payable to BJFM) to Competition Director, **John Gifford c/o Peggy Bolen, 809 1/2 Second Street, Marietta OH 45750**. If you **do not make it into the competition, your money will be returned** with your music. Strive to make yourself better and please try again next year.

Any questions, just contact Competition Director, John Gifford at 740-680-6338 after 12 p.m. or e-mail jgifford17799@roadrunner.com; or e-mail bolen@bjfm.org.