

RULES AND SCORING CRITERIA

JUDGING:

Northern AZ Blues Alliance judges are Blues aficionados with an understanding and historical perspective of blues forms. Some judges may be musicians who may have competed in local or Memphis International Blues Challenges, club owners, promoters, or others knowledgeable of the genre. Any given three-judge panel will include members with varying opinions of Blues, covering the spectrum of Blues from the most traditional to soul/blues and rock/blues.

SCORING CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS:

Blues Content: The sound and feel of the music should be true to any of blues sub-categories: traditional blues, country 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 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. **NOTE: 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: Vocal skills are weighed according to concepts of tone, musicality, meaning, and expression.

Instrumental Talent: Ability level on all instruments featured within the act are scored.

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 amplification will be measured.

Length of Set: Each act is allowed a maximum of 25 minutes for their set. A timekeeper will be part of the judging panel.

BASIC SCORING CALCULATION:

Judges will score acts on a 10 point scale, with 10 points being the highest score received. The following weights will be used in calculating final scores, with the maximum Total Weighted Score an act may receive is 130.

- Raw scores for Blues Content will be multiplied by four
- Raw scores for Originality will be multiplied by three
- Raw scores for Talent and Vocals will be multiplied by two
- Raw scores for Stage Presence will be multiplied by two

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 online application completely or accurately by the deadline. **(Latest date to apply is September 25, 2017, postmarked.)**
- **Failure to check in at least 60 minutes before the assigned performance time (all performers in the act MUST be present.)**
- Excessive time loading-in before and/or loading out after a competition performance **(5 minutes is allowed during Memphis IBC, and acts are expected to adhere to this measure.)**
- Failing to acknowledge that a song is a cover and/or not giving credit to its originator.
- Each ten seconds that its performance runs overtime during a competition performance.
- Finishing 3 or more minutes before its allotted performance time expires.

GENERAL GUIDELINE SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGES:

Each judge will indicate his or her Raw Score between 1 and 10 (no fractions) in each category and turn that information over to the Scorekeeper using the following scale:

- 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

Each Judge will multiply the Raw Score in each category by the established multiplier to get the judge's Individual Weighted Score in each category for each act.

The Individual Weighted Scores for each category (band or solo/duo) will be added together to determine each act's Total Weighted Score for each judge.

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

After all acts have been judged and each act's Net Weighted Score per judge calculated, each act will be ranked by judge based on that judge's order of scores, with the act receiving the judge's highest Net Weighted Score being given a ranking of 1, and so on for that judge. This will reveal each acts Final Ranking Number.

In the unlikely case of a tie, the judges will convene and reassess their scores in order to break the tie.

EXAMPLE: Step 1 – Determine Raw Score (a function of adding each of the four scores of Blues Content, Originality, Talent and Stage Presence) – maximum of 130 points.

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total Weighed Score
Act 1	105	121	110	336
Act 2	97	94	108	299
Act 3	102	100	98	300
Act 4	120	98	106	324

	Total Weighted Score	Less any Penalty Points	Net Weighted Score	Final Ranking
Act 1	336	2	334	1
Act 2	299	1	298	4
Act 3	300	0	300	3
Act 4	324	0	324	2