

Illinois Central Blues Club
5th Annual ICBC Blues Challenge
Deadline to apply July 30, 2011

The Illinois Central Blues Club "ICBC" is announcing a "Call For Bands and Solo/Duo Acts" to compete in the 2011 ICBC Blues Challenge to be conducted during the Annual Blues and BBQ Festival in downtown Springfield August 27, 2011. Bands selected to compete will play a 25 minute time slot between noon and 6:00 pm. **The ICBC reserves the right to change this format depending on the number of bands participating.** Time slots will be chosen by a random drawing to be held during a meeting for all bands on Monday, August 6, 2011 at 8:00 pm at the Alamo, 115 S. 5th, Springfield, IL. The meeting will outline how the Challenge works and provide an opportunity for bands to ask questions. Since sound will be provided in all sets for the bands, the sound tech will also be on hand to give the details of the PA.

Judges for the competition will be selected from a field of entertainment, radio personalities, and music savvy Blues Society members. The decisions of the judges are final. The President of the ICBC will automatically serve as a judge. Judging criteria is the same as the criteria the Blues Foundation uses for the International Blues Challenge to be held January 31 - February 4, 2012 in Memphis, TN. NOTE: The Blues Foundation has move to a 4 day format.

The winning band will be provided travel monies of \$1,000 and the winning solo/duo act will be provided \$500 to attend the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. In the event the act is unable to attend the competition, the prize will be forfeited.

The ICBC will utilize the same Eligibility and Scoring Criteria as the Blues Foundation. These can be viewed at http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_rules for Eligibility and for scoring visit http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_scoring

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Restrictions:

--The only artists who are deemed ineligible for the International Blues Challenge are artists whose have been nominated for a Blues Music Award-whose name has appeared on a final Blues Music Award ballot-in the 30-year history of the Blues Music Awards (and formerly the W.C. Handy Awards).

-- An act may not participate in the IBC in three consecutive years. An act may be a band, solo/duo or youth.

-- At least one member of the act must be a member of the Illinois Central Blues Club.

SCORING CRITERIA

The Blues Foundation recommends that all Affiliated Organizations use their established scoring criteria. Categories include Vocals, 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 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.

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.

Penalty Points

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

SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGES

Acts should familiarize themselves with how judges are required to score acts.

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.

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. After all acts have been judged and each act's Net Weighted Score for each judge calculated, each act will then be ranked for each 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. So, in a competition with five acts, for example, each judge ends up with the acts ranked 1 - 5 based on each judge's personal scoring habits. This results in the acts' Final Ranking Number for each judge.

7. Next, the scorer totals the Final Ranking Number from all judges for each act to determine the Gross Final Ranking. That figure is averaged (divided by the total number of judges) to Achieve the Aggregate Act Ranking. For the semi-finals the act in each venue with the best two- day total of Aggregate Act Ranking will advance to the finals. For the finals, the act with the best Aggregate Act Ranking is the top finisher.

8. 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.

COMPETITION POLICIES

Band Check-in

Band check-in time will be 30 minutes prior to their scheduled time slot. Failure to check in by the designated time will result in disqualification.

Orientation

There will be a 30-minute orientation on August 2, 2010 at 8:00pm at The Alamo. This orientation will review contest rules, introduce key people, and seek to resolve any questions or special problems that contestants may have. Any competitor failing to check in by the orientation without special arrangement will be disqualified.

Staging and Equipment

The ICBC will provide backline and sound. The setup on stage will include a drum kit with snare drum, amps, and mics. Drummers should bring their own cymbals and kick pedals and Harmonica players should bring their own harp amp. Keyboard players may bring their own keyboards and keyboard amps,

and stands will be provided. Effects racks and other auxiliary equipment are permitted. Musicians must include on the Affiliated Organization's application any additional or special equipment needed.

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.

The ICBC reserves the right to approve or restrict any and all equipment an entrant wishes to bring on stage.

Other Points of Consideration

The ICBC reserves the right to use any contestant's name, voices, pictures, visages and other likeness for the purpose of advertising, publishing and promoting the ICBC. The ICBC reserves the right to videotape or otherwise record all ICBC performances. The ICBC shall retain total ownership of all recordings and programs, and reserves the right to edit the program, the right to broadcast the program, the right to copyright the program and the right to license others to use these rights.

APPLICATION FOR THE 2011 BLUES CHALLENGE

1. Entries must be accompanied by a photo and act biography.
(3x5 or larger, black & white preferred but not required, Electronic format is acceptable as long as photo is 150 dpi or higher. Acceptable formats include .psd, .jpg, and .tif. E-mail to markredmiston@msn.com with pictures and/or questions.)
2. Entries must be accompanied by a cassette tape or CD of the act.
(Quality of recording/picture are not considered in selecting and only the first 3 songs will be considered)
3. Entries must be accompanied by a \$10 entry fee.
(Fee will be returned if your band is not selected to compete in the challenge)
4. If winning act is not able to perform in the International Blues Competition, the travel monies will be forfeited.
5. Your signature is a guarantee of performance. **Do Not** sign if you have a conflict with the date of the competition. You will be notified of your actual performance time as soon as the selection process is complete. Failure to perform due to performance conflicts results in immediate disqualification of your band and forfeiture of all prizes.
6. At least one member of the act must be a member of the ICBC.
7. All decisions of the judges are **FINAL**.

**ILLINOIS CENTRAL BLUES CLUB
2011 BLUES CHALLENGE
APPLICATION FORM**

ACT NAME _____

CONTACT NAME _____

CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CONTACT ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE-DAY () _____ NIGHT () _____

BEST TIME TO CALL _____

PLEASE LIST ALL BAND MEMBERS AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS*

***Note: No substitution will be allowed. Band members must remain the same in all rounds. In case of an emergency, ICBC's Board will make the decision on the substitution prior to the performance date. ICBC must have 24-hour notification @ (217) 622-0340 or (217) 679-0721**

Act Name _____
agree to perform at all of the dates for which we qualify.

Signature of responsible party _____

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

Illinois Central Blues Club
P.O. Box 603
Springfield, IL 62705

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 30, 2011

Entrants accept full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions in relation to contest prizes. Entrants grant permission to the Illinois Central Blues

Club for use of photos, audio and video tapes for promotional purposes only.

TAPES AND PHOTOS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

VENUE SOUND WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL ROUNDS