

PLEASE REVIEW THE RULES

1. Each Act will have fifteen (15) minutes to perform. (subject to change)
2. Lots will be drawn in advance to determine the playing order.
3. There will be set-up time between acts, but the next act should be ready to go *AT LEAST* one (1) hour beforehand to keep competition moving ahead.
4. A panel of judges will be scoring the competition. Each judge will rate each act independently on a score sheet.
5. There should be no contact with the Judges by any individual or representative of an Act, during the Blues competition.
6. Scoring will be based on Blues Content, Talent, Originality, and Stage Presence.
7. The score for the Act will be the sum total of all judges scores.
8. No extra time will be allowed due to equipment malfunctions of the Act.
9. One (1) penalty point will be deducted for every ten (10) seconds the act goes over the fifteen (15) minute limit.
10. An individual cannot compete in the Band Division and the Solo/Duo Division.
11. **ALL INDIVIDUALS OF AN ACT MUST REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT COMPETITION, UP TO AND INCLUDING IBC FINALS IN MEMPHIS. (No additions, subtractions or substitutions of individuals are allowed).**
12. Any artist whose name has appeared on a final Handy/Blues Music Award ballot is ineligible. All other musicians who have had a peripheral and/or professional contact through performance with a Handy/Blues Music Award nominee, including but not limited to touring band members and studio musicians, are deemed eligible.
13. Any Act that has competed at the IBC two (2) consecutive years, representing any blues society and/or affiliate, is ineligible to compete and must sit out at least one (1) year.
14. BST's 6th Annual Blues Challenge will be held September 26th, 2009.
Deadline for entry is August 31, 2009.

*****OUT OF FAIRNESS DO NOT ASK US TO BEND THE RULES*****

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE BST BLUES CHALLENGE COMMITTEE:

1. At the BST Blues Challenge, a separate solo/duo competition will be held if there is a minimum of four (4) entries. If there are fewer than four (4), the solo/duo acts will be competing in the band category. If a solo/duo act chooses not to enter the band competition, their entry fee will be refunded.
2. "If you cannot afford to pay your own expenses to the IBC in Memphis, you should not enter. The BST has historically provided a limited amount of funds to help defer costs, but this is not guaranteed."