

## NEOBA Blues Challenge Rules

1. The Blues Challenge will take place at The Eagles, N. Canton, OH, on Saturday, **April 27, 2019**.
2. Solo/Duo performers or Bands (Acts) are eligible to compete in the challenge. All entrants are encouraged to review the rules of the International Blues Challenge at the following link: [http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc\\_rules](http://www.blues.org/#ref=ibc_rules)
3. NEOBA's board of directors may also appoint a band or solo/duo representative for the Youth Showcase. Contact Andy Pressler at [andy@bluesNEOBA.org](mailto:andy@bluesNEOBA.org) or 330-877-3913 for details.
4. Each Act will have 20 minutes to perform. There will be 10 minutes between each Act to allow for the performers to move off and on the stage. No additional time will be allowed in the event of a malfunction of a performer's equipment. Points will be deducted if the Act exceeds the 20 minute performance limit.
5. NEOBA will notify all Acts of the scheduled line-up in advance of the event date. If your Act has a preference for time slot because of other commitments, please note on your entry and we will try to accommodate.
6. To allow for unexpected changes in the schedule, each Act must check in and be ready to perform AT LEAST one (1) hour prior to scheduled performance time.
7. A panel of judges will be scoring the competition. Each judge will rate each Act independently on a score sheet. The score sheet is based on The Blues Foundation's IBC score sheet.
8. There shall be no contact with the judges by any individual or representative of an Act during the competition.
9. Scoring will be based on the following criteria: Blues Content, Instrumental Talent, Vocal Talent, Originality, and Stage Presence. The score for the Act will be the sum total of all judges' scores. Categories are weighted as follows: Blues Content (x4); Instrumental Talent (x2); Vocal Talent (x2); Originality (x3); Stage Presence (x2)
10. An individual cannot compete in both the Solo/Duo and Band competition.
11. Any artist whose name has appeared on a final Handy/Blues Music Award ballot is ineligible. All other musicians who have had 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 for IBC.
12. A name change will not exempt the Act from this rule. At least two (2) new performers must have been added to the new Act.
13. A winning act is limited to two consecutive appearances at the International Blues Challenge, and must then sit out at least one year before being eligible to compete again. An individual may not compete in more than one act in any capacity.
14. Each Act must provide a copy of the set list they intend to perform one week prior to the competition (e-mail submittals accepted). The set list is to include the following: 1) Name of Act; 2) Names of songs; 3) Designation that the song is an original (written by the Act, or a member of the Act), or a cover tune; 4) Names of performing members of Act, and instrument played. Failure to provide the typed set list with this required information will result in a deduction of five (5) points on the score sheet.
15. Challenge winners will represent the Northeast Ohio Blues Association (NEOBA) at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN scheduled to commence in early 2020. Cash awards of \$1,300 (band), \$800 (solo/duo) will be made. Youth Showcase award TBD. Award distribution will be made once the act is registered for the IBC competition.

16. All entries to the Blues Challenge are due on or before **Saturday, April 6 2019**. To request an Application, e-mail NEOBA at [andy@bluesNEOBA.org](mailto:andy@bluesNEOBA.org), check our website at [www.bluesNEOBA.org](http://www.bluesNEOBA.org) or call Andy at 330-877-3913.
17. In the event of a tie, the Officers and Board Members of NEOBA will have the final vote.