



NEOBA Blues Challenge

The Eagles, N. Canton, Ohio – April 27, 2019

OFFICIAL APPLICATION

Name of Act		
Member Name	Instrument	Age

Competition Agreement

The undersigned hereby attests that he/she is at least 18 years of age and is the responsible spokesperson and/or legal representative for the individual(s) listed elsewhere in this application, identified by real or stage name and herein referred to as the Act. By signing this application, agreement to all terms and conditions contained herein is being made by the spokesperson on behalf of the Act. The undersigned spokesperson does also acknowledge that each member of the Act is knowledgeable of, and agrees to abide by, all terms and conditions set forth in this document. Any act found to be in violation of this agreement and the terms and conditions described herein may be disqualified.

Terms & Conditions

- The Act must meet the eligibility requirements described elsewhere in this application and NEOBA Blues Challenge Rules.
- The Act exempts from all liability: the Northeast Ohio Blues Association (NEOBA), The Blues Foundation, and all persons/organizations/companies that are directly or indirectly associated with NEOBA.

- The Act accepts full responsibility for all taxes and restrictions on prizes as a result of winning the NEOBA Blues Challenge.
- NEOBA reserves the right to make use of the names, voices, pictures, visages and other likenesses of the Act for the purpose of advertising, publishing, and promoting the Blues Challenge.
- NEOBA will retain total ownership of the event. This includes the rights to edit, broadcast, and copyright the event, and to license others to use these rights.
- The Challenge entry fee of \$40 must be included with the completed application. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- The winning act in each category will represent NEOBA at the 2020 International Blues Challenge, scheduled to commence early in 2020. Winning acts will register with the Blues Foundation for the IBC.
- Prize monies will be paid to the winning act in each category by check once registered for the 2020 International Blues Challenge.
- The Act **must** arrive at the venue and check in with the Event Coordinator **at least one hour prior** to its scheduled performance time,* or risk disqualification. Cancellations and/or short performance times of other acts may accelerate the schedule, so it is **recommended** that the Act arrive at least two hours prior to its scheduled performance. ***All scheduled performance times are approximate.**
- If the Act is not ready to take the stage immediately following the previous act's performance, the Act may forfeit its right to perform, and the competition will proceed to the next act. The Act **may be** permitted to perform later, **but will incur a ten point penalty to its Net Weighted Score.** Granting a later performance is at the discretion of the Event Coordinator, whose decision is final.
- Winning acts may be asked to provide a performance for NEOBA to assist with a fundraising event, and to promote NEOBA post-challenge as part of promotional efforts.

Order of Performance

The order of performance for both categories will be announced in early April 2019. The performance schedule will be distributed to all shortlisted bands and solo/duo performers in advance of the Event.

Arbitration of Disputes

NEOBA will stand as the final arbiter of any disputes. Disputes must be made the day of the Event. All received disputes will be reviewed by attending NEOBA Officers and Board Members. Final decision of the review shall be communicated to The Act after resolution.

Scoring

Acts participating in the NEOBA Blues Challenge will be judged in five (5) categories. Each category will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10, with a 1 representing a beginner level of performance and a score of 10 representing a major-festival level of performance. Each act will be given a time limit of 20 minutes.

The categories are:

- **Blues Content:** Everyone has his or her own interpretation of what is and is not Blues. Thus, any given panel of judges 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 International Blues Challenge, 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.”)
- **Vocal Talent:** The Act’s vocal skills.
- **Instrument Talent:** The Act’s instrumental skills.
- **Originality:** Original work is encouraged. Cover tunes are allowed, but it is recommended that each artist reflect their own interpretation rather than copying another artist note for note.
- **Stage Presence:** This is not 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” an act may be. Things that factor into Stage Presence may include, but not be limited to: appearance, audience rapport, energy, enthusiasm, etc.

Penalties

- **Time Limits:** Acts will be penalized **one point** from their **Averaged Weighted Score** for every ten seconds that they exceed the 20-minute time limit.
- Acts will also be penalized **one point for finishing 3 or more minutes** before its allotted performance time expires.

To reflect the relative importance of each category in the success of an act, scores in each category are weighted. Raw scores for **Blues Content** are multiplied by four; **Vocal and Instrumental Talent** is multiplied by two; **Originality** is multiplied by 3 and **Stage Presence** is multiplied by two. The total in each category represents the **Weighted Score** for that Category. The highest possible Total weighted score (the sum of all five Weighted Scores) is **130**. Incurred penalty points are deducted from each act’s **Total Weighted Score** to obtain the **Net Weighted Score**, with the highest **Net Weighted Score** determining the winning act. In the event of a tie, the Officers and Board Members of NEOBA will have the final vote.

Equipment

NEOBA will provide: PA system, microphones, drum kit, two guitar amplifiers and one bass amplifier. Keyboard players must provide their own keyboard, stand, and amp.

Any extra equipment a musician brings must be set up and removed in the allotted time of 10 minutes between acts. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of reduced performance time.

Agreement to Terms and Conditions:

By signing below, I do hereby declare that I am the official spokesperson for The Act, as described above, and have reviewed this Application and the accompanying NEOBA Blues Challenge Rules and agree to all terms and conditions:

Name (print): _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Application Deadline:

This Application, along with the \$40.00 entry fee, must be received at NEOBA's designated mail drop-off address on or before **Saturday, April, 2019**. Payment may be made in the form of a check or money order made payable to NEOBA.

All Acts selected to perform in the Challenge will receive a complimentary one (1) year membership to NEOBA.

If your Act is not accepted to compete in the Challenge, your entry fee will be returned in full.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andy at 330-877-3913, or contact NEOBA via e-mail at: andy@bluesNEOBA.org.

Mailing address for NEOBA application:

NEOBA
c/o Kathy Lovejoy
43 E. Church St.
Newton Falls, OH 44444

Completed Entries Must Include:

1. Signed and completed Application Form. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
2. Sample of the Act's music (CD, DVD or Youtube® or comparable online performance video links). Please provide complete http:// thread.
3. Press kit (photo of performer[s]; band) and a narrative description of the Act.
4. Bios of artists.
5. Links to Facebook®, websites, or other; not required, but helpful.
6. Check or Money Order made payable to NEOBA in the amount of \$40.

*The North Canton Eagles club is located at 6979 Sunset Strip Avenue, NW, North Canton, Ohio 44720. Exit 111 off I-77 (Portage Street, NW).