



Website: <http://tggbs.org/ibc> E-Mail: ibc@tggbs.org

RULES – TGGBS INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE (IBC)

Who Can Enter?

A Blues band or performer cannot enter the International Blues Challenge (IBC) directly. Only a blues society -- in this case, The Golden Gate Blues Society (TGGBS) -- may sponsor an act. An act is eligible under these conditions:

- It is a TGGBS Band Member in good standing and agrees to remain so throughout the duration of the current IBC year, up to and including the term of their participation. Note that Solo/Duo performers are considered “Bands” for the purpose of TGGBS IBC membership status. Note also that TGGBS “Band” membership dues must be paid and current before competing in an IBC event. To avoid being dropped from a competition, please keep the IBC Coordinator apprised of your TGGBS membership status. Every effort will be made to avoid misunderstandings.
- It has never received a Blues Music Award (formerly W.C. Handy) nomination.
- All other musicians who have had peripheral or professional contact through performing with a Blues Music Award nominee, including but not limited to, touring band members and studio musicians, are eligible to participate in the IBC.
- An act is limited to two consecutive appearances at the Memphis IBC, after which it must sit out at least one year before being eligible to compete again. An act under the same name will not be allowed to compete three consecutive years in Memphis.

Bands and Solo/Duo acts wishing to be considered for TGGBS sponsorship in the IBC should submit two forms (TGGBS’ Application and Rules forms) and a Press Kit (promotional material) to TGGBS. See next page for further information regarding Press Kit requirements. Non-member acts may enclose Band Membership dues with their submission. An evaluation committee will review the submissions and qualify the bands. Please visit <https://tggbs.org/store> for current membership fees and ways to join or renew.

Qualifying acts will be notified as soon as possible to ascertain availability so that event planning and promotion can begin. If for any reason, publicity has begun for a preliminary event, and an act is not able to perform at the future Bay Area or Memphis Final, they are still obligated to complete the preliminary challenge as advertised.

Performance order for events will be decided by the IBC Coordinator, using factors such as travel distance, conflicts, and convenience. Artists will work with the IBC Coordinator regarding amps and backline gear, with the goal of achieving fast set changes and sound checks.

Scoring Criteria:

TGGBS will use The Blues Foundation’s established scoring criteria. Categories include Blues Content, Vocals, Talent, Originality, and Stage Presence.

Additional TGGBS IBC Rules, Requirements, and Information:

- Press Kit (promotional material): Before being accepted as an IBC participant, an act must have an approved Bio (600 characters maximum, not counting spaces), a Photo (900 x 600 @ 300 dpi), a CD, and a Website or Social Media site. Approval of this material is made by TGGBS’ IBC Coordinator. Any exceptions to these requirements must also be approved by the IBC Coordinator, and will be based on

the overall quality of the act's current Press Kit, and the efforts being made to complete a professional Press Kit.

- Act agrees that if they are TGGBS' IBC winner, that all members of the Band and Solo/Duo acts are willing to help with and perform at current year IBC fundraisers. Distribution of raised funds will be determined by TGGBS' Board of Directors.
- Act agrees that they will not be reimbursed for TGGBS IBC performances (including IBC fundraisers), or for performing in Memphis if they are selected to be sent as TGGBS' representative.
- In preparation for possibly being TGGBS' winning act, an act must show financial ability to purchase their own travel tickets, and to wait for reimbursement AFTER THE MEMPHIS IBC, and to also provide for other expenses that TGGBS does not reimburse. For winning IBC Bands & Solo/Duo Acts, TGGBS will pay no more than UP TO the cost of standard air travel to and from Memphis (generally \$400 maximum per act member) and no more than UP TO the cost of double occupancy hotel rooms, during the time the act is required to be in Memphis for their performances. Extra nights before or after the Memphis IBC are not covered by TGGBS, and the cost of rooms for friends or significant others are not covered by TGGBS. Artists are responsible for their meals, ground transportation, incidentals, and any other miscellaneous expenses. Members of winning acts will also need valid credit cards when checking into their Memphis hotels. Note that leaving a credit card on file is a standard hotel requirement, in case of phone calls or use of the mini bar. **Please read the following paragraph...**
 - **Important:** As explained in the previous paragraph, TGGBS attempts to help with the travel costs of sending winning acts to the Memphis IBC. However, any financial assistance from TGGBS is limited by fundraising efforts during the current year's IBC season. These efforts typically include IBC contest ticket sales, raffle proceeds, donations, and TGGBS sponsored IBC fundraisers. Even with best efforts, our IBC funds sometimes fall short of covering the travel expenses TGGBS attempts to help with -- and TGGBS is not obligated to re-imburse acts for more money than was raised. Any shortfall will be covered by the winning acts, either through personal finances, donations, or their own separate fundraising efforts.
- Except for reasons of severe hardship, band members cannot be substituted during the course of TGGBS' IBC season. Please get commitments from band members before starting the season, as these are the musicians you will be taking to Memphis if you win. No additional members are ever allowed (i.e., a band cannot increase its number of band members during the local IBC season, or before going to the Memphis IBC). Final determination on issues involving band members will be made by the IBC Coordinator, with the help of TGGBS' Board of Directors if needed.
- Act agrees that if rules and requirements are not adhered to, the act may be disqualified from the IBC. In rare situations such as this, a winning act may be replaced by a runner-up.
- Act agrees that anything not in writing is not considered to be an agreement with TGGBS. This requirement is meant to avoid financial misunderstandings. Please communicate in writing any questions regarding TGGBS' financial commitment to participating artists.
- Act acknowledges that if they win TGGBS' IBC, they will be representing TGGBS, and the ethical responsibility that implies (such as avoiding conflicts and rants on Facebook involving TGGBS).
- We appreciate your interest in TGGBS' IBC and look forward to working with you!!

I acknowledge that I have read The Golden Gate Blues Society International Blues Challenge Rules and agree to abide by them if selected to participate in TGGBS' IBC.

Signature_____

Print Name_____

Date_____